

MOTHER TERESA
DAY 2
Doubts over the quality of mercy
PAGE 17

TIMES TRAVEL OFFER
FLY TO EUROPE WITH
BRITISH MIDLAND FROM
£50
TOKEN 2 PAGE 14

BEWARE OF THE GRIEF POLICE
Nigella Lawson on private emotions and public pressures
PAGE 16

HOT TICKETS FOR THE AUTUMN
ARTS
PAGE 33

'No return to industrial warfare'

Join the real world, Blair tells unions

By Philip Webster and Philip Bassett

THE Prime Minister told the trade unions in stark terms yesterday that they must cast aside their dogmas and join the real world if they were to have a role in creating a modern enterprise Britain.

He made plain that union leaders had no automatic influence over a Labour Government, and he warned them that they risked being left behind unless they came to terms with the challenges of a more competitive world. They must shed old-fashioned, defensive attitudes, modernise their political structures and accept new responsibilities.

Tony Blair's uncompromising speech to the TUC conference in Brighton amounted to a general call for all of Britain's institutions to modernise, but it was clear that the union movement was at the top of his list.

His address to the conference was the first by a Prime Minister since 1978 and, as such, the ovations he received were to be expected. But much of what he said was heard in uncomfortable silence and some union leaders objected strongly to his words. One said: "We don't want threats."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who backed the principle of workers' rights in his speech earlier, won a more enthusiastic reception.

Mr Blair's main theme was the creation of a more competitive country and he slapped down John Edmonds of the GMB who had attacked his insistence on employment flexibility. Mr Edmonds had said that he "shivered a little"



Blair: "We will keep market flexibility"

when he heard Mr Blair using "Tory phrases". Mr Blair tackled him head-on: "We will keep the flexibility of the present market. And it may make some shiver, but I tell you, in the end it is warmer in the real world."

Labour would keep its promise of legislating for union recognition where most workers wanted it, but Mr Blair urged the unions to reach voluntary agreement with employers. "We will not go back to the days of industrial warfare, strikes without ballots, mass and flying pickets, secondary action and the rest. You don't want it and I won't let it happen."

The unions should also follow the Labour Party in modernising their political structures. "Influence with this Government and with me is not determined by anything other than the persuasiveness of your arguments. The old ways — resolutions, the committee rooms, the fixing,

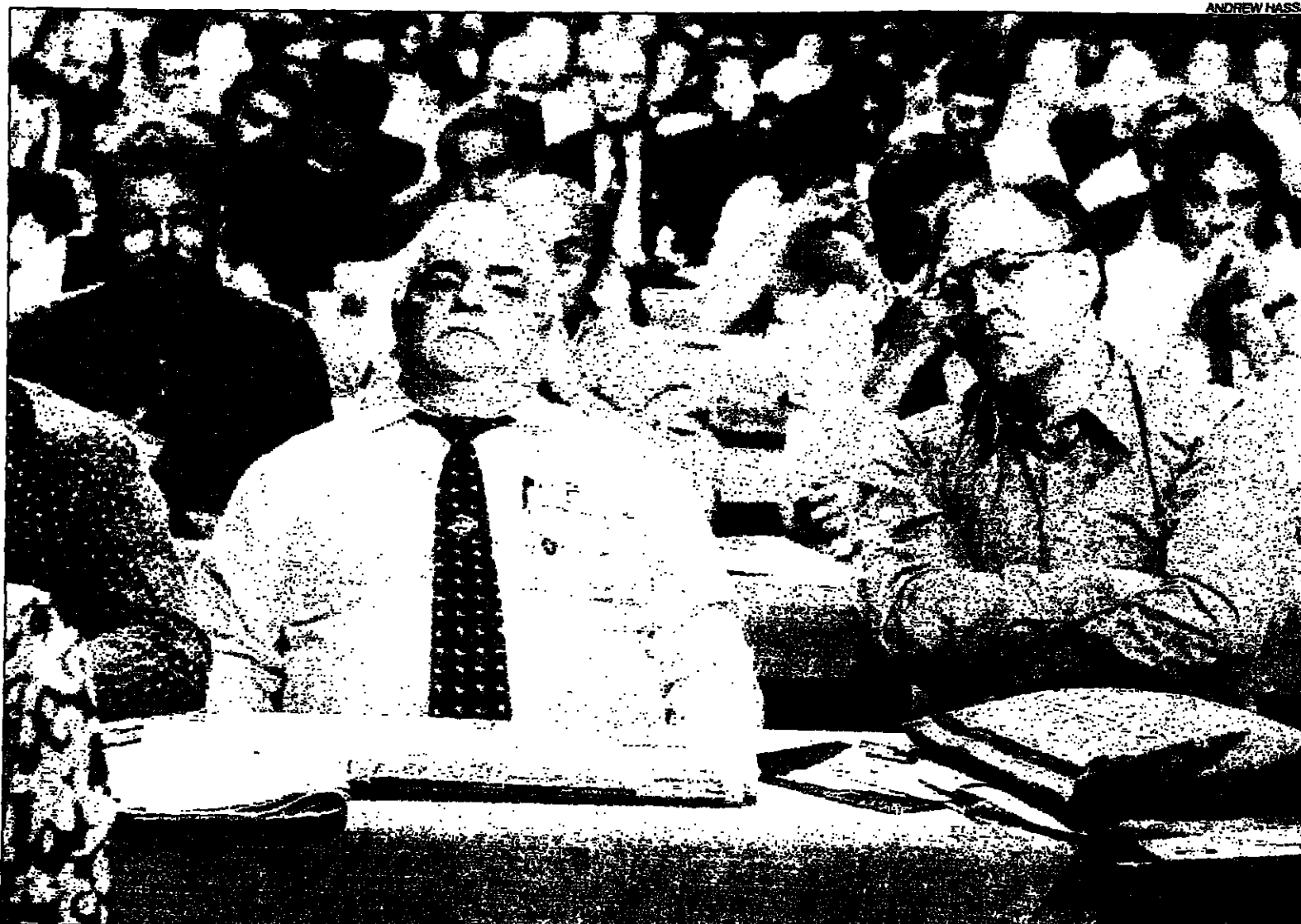
the small groups trying to run the show — have no future."

Labour and the unions must not repeat past mistakes: heavy-handed state intervention, nationalisation, industrial conflict. Instead they should adopt the "modern way" and face up to the reality that "we must be adaptable, flexible and open to change."

If the Government and the unions did not make Britain a country of successful businesses, then they were betraying those they represented. And the unions should be creative, not conservative: "Let us make it impossible to dismiss trade unions as old-fashioned, defensive, anti-progress and activist-dominated. We have nothing to lose but our dogmas. So let us lose them."

Delegates' response to the speech was mixed. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said that the Prime Minister had been well-received, though he accepted that he had a "hard message", while Tony Young, of the communication workers, welcomed the call for the unions to join the Government in its modernisation programme. The Union leader Rodney Bickerstaffe said: "With the Archbishop's speech earlier, it was a good day for the unions." But David Patton of the Fire Brigades Union objected to being told to join the real world, and said: "We don't want threats. That's not partnership."

Unions riding high, page 13
Leading article, page 19
Congress reports, page 26



There were ovations for the first Prime Minister to address the TUC for two decades, but much of Mr Blair's speech was heard in silence

Whitehall press officers are purged

By Valerie Elliott
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A PURGE of senior Government information officers has begun in Whitehall after some Cabinet Ministers asked for a review of their personal press arrangements.

No central directive has been issued to departments by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is in charge of Government presentation. But senior Government sources confirmed last night that Ministers feel many of the Whitehall press officers cannot match the skills used by the Labour Party's own spin doctors.

One source said: "We are expecting a few more casualties. Four people have already been moved from their posts and others are feeling anxious and

unhappy. But I can say now that we do not think there is any politicisation going on. It is to do with the job required by different ministers."

Another official confirmed that departments were keen to observe propriety, and the moves were not intended for political propaganda purposes.

But alarm in Whitehall was triggered yesterday when Gill Samuel, an experienced director of information who has worked at the Ministry of Defence for five years, and was previously at Transport and Trade and Industry, learnt that her department was to be restructured and she would no longer be head. She is to stay on at the MoD on other duties.

Information staff were told the department had to be more innovative, more concerned with shaping the

political agenda, and more reactive to events. Her post is to be filled by Oona Muirhead, currently command secretary at the Permanent Joint Forces Headquarters at Northwood, Middlesex, who was selected by Richard Mottram, MoD Permanent Secretary.

Miss Samuel told her office yesterday that the aim apparently was to copy the system used in the Foreign Office and Treasury, where specialists — a diplomat and an economist respectively — are put in charge of the press offices.

But Whitehall sources suggested last night that Bernard Gray, a former defence correspondent with the *Financial Times*, who has been appointed a

special adviser by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, would be closely involved with the department's PR. MoD sources made it clear last night however that Mr Robertson did not wish to have a personal press officer.

Other changes that have taken place during the summer are the removal of Andy Wood, director of information at the Northern Ireland office. He was told by his permanent secretary, John Chilcot, that his style and personal chemistry with Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, were not right. He is on paid leave from the department while other opportunities are explored. Liz Drummond, director of information at the Scottish Office, was also told her department was to be restructured and she decided to ask

Continued on page 2, col 5



Adams takes step to peace talks

Gerry Adams met the final condition for Sinn Féin's participation in full-scale peace negotiations by affirming his "total and absolute commitment" to the "Mitchell" principles. The ceremony was boycotted by Unionist and loyalist parties. Page 2

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
SIMON JENKINS	18
ARTS	32-34
CHESS & BRIDGE	45
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	43-46, 48
MEDIA	22, 23
HOMES	41

Two die in trip to pay tribute to Princess

By Paul Kelbie

THE QUEEN yesterday sent a message of sympathy to a coach party involved in a fatal crash while it was travelling to London to pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Two women were killed and 47 others were injured after the 53-seat Volvo coach was in collision with a lorry and a van near junction 12 of the M6 near Cannock, Staffordshire.

A spokesman for the Crew-based coach company said their vehicle, which had no seatbelts, was stationary in a traffic jam at the time of the crash.

Last night a spokesman for Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen learnt with sadness of the accident involving the 50s Plus Club of Nantwich and has sent a message of sympathy to the organisers."

Thousands of people with floral tributes were last night still converging on the gates of Buckingham and Kensington palaces, while in Paris a third blood test on the body of Henri Paul, the Ritz chauffeur, confirmed he had been more than three times over France's legal drink-drive limit on the night the Princess died.

In London, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said Prince William and Harry must be protected from Press "hounding" up to and beyond their 16th birthdays if self-regulation of the press was to meet public expectations.

Wife raped by husband wins £14,000 payout

By Paul Wilkinson and Frances Gibb

A WIFE has made legal history by successfully suing her husband for damages after he raped her.

The woman, aged 40, who has since been divorced and remarried, has been awarded £14,000 in what experts describe as a ground-breaking case. Her husband has been successfully criminally prosecuted for raping his wife, but lawyers believe this is the first time that a civil action for rape has been won.

The woman brought her action after the Crown Prosecution Service declined to prosecute her husband, even though he had admitted rape. CPS officials ruled that, since he was unlikely to offend again, it would not be in the public interest to proceed.

The award to the woman, who is from a middle-class background in Bradford, West Yorkshire, and is a mother of five, was made last November but has only just been revealed. Yesterday she said: "I felt completely let down by the criminal justice system. I felt that no one was taking the attack seriously, and I felt isolated and alone."

It has been a terrible ordeal, but it has been worth it, especially if it helps other women. She said that, when she was originally told that there was no point in going ahead with a criminal prosecution, she almost gave up, adding: "But I was wrong. The civil courts are alternative places for women to take their cases, and win, and I would urge all

women to use them in their fight for justice. "I still believe, if he was not my husband, he would have been put away for what he did. As it is, I am the one who has been left with a life sentence because I can never forget what happened."

The woman's husband, a mechanic who now lives elsewhere in northern England, was ordered to pay the damages by a judge at Bradford County Court. The couple were divorced a year after the 1992 assault. Last year the woman married a former childhood friend whom she had met again.

The award was hailed by Women Against Rape (War) as "fantastic". The pressure group's Ruth Hall said: "The woman is to be congratulated. But she should never have been forced to bring the case. Yet again the CPS has refused to implement the law."

Two years ago War accused the CPS of failing to prosecute rape cases and of too readily dropping them. Later the group backed two prostitutes in bringing the first successful prosecution for rape after the CPS declined to do so.

But Ms Hall added that civil actions were not the answer for every rape victim where the CPS declined to act since not every defendant could pay damages of £14,000. Instead, she said, compensation under the state criminal injuries scheme should be increased.

"These [latest] damages are roughly double what a woman

Continued on page 2, col 5

THE TIMES on Saturday

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Hackett, soldier and don, dies

General Sir John Hackett, the last surviving senior British officer from the Battle of Arrhem, died yesterday, aged 86. Sir John went on to become Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine and later was Principal of King's College, London.

Obituary, page 21

Fraser back for West Indies tour

Angus Fraser, 32, the Middlesex seam bowler, has been recalled by England for the tour of West Indies after an absence of two years.

Ashley Cowan, 22, of Essex, is the youngest member of the tour party. Derbyshire's Dominic Cork has been excluded. Page 48

Inflation hits two-year high

Steep rises in mortgage payments and the cost of summer holidays pushed headline inflation to a two-year high of 3.5 per cent in August.

But the underlying figure fell and the City is now convinced that the Bank of England will not put up interest rates this week. Page 25

Last orders

Public houses could be forced to close under a penalty points scheme aimed at cutting drink-related violence and similar to the motoring offence "totting up" system. Page 2

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Sinn Fein vows to turn its back on use of force

AFTER three decades of republican violence, Sinn Fein yesterday formally renounced the use of force to achieve political ends.

In a brief Stormont ceremony boycotted by every Unionist and loyalist party, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, met the final condition for his party's participation in full-scale peace negotiations by affirming its "total and absolute commitment" to the so-called "Mitchell principles" of democracy and non-violence.

Behind closed doors, George Mitchell, the former United States senator who chairs the peace talks, read out the six principles, which include the resolution of political issues through "democratic and exclusively peaceful means", the renunciation of force to influence the negotiations and the total disarmament of all paramilitary

Loyalists boycott historic ceremony as Adams adopts principles, writes Martin Fletcher

organisations. "I am very pleased and welcome the opportunity to affirm these principles on behalf of Sinn Fein," Mr Adams replied.

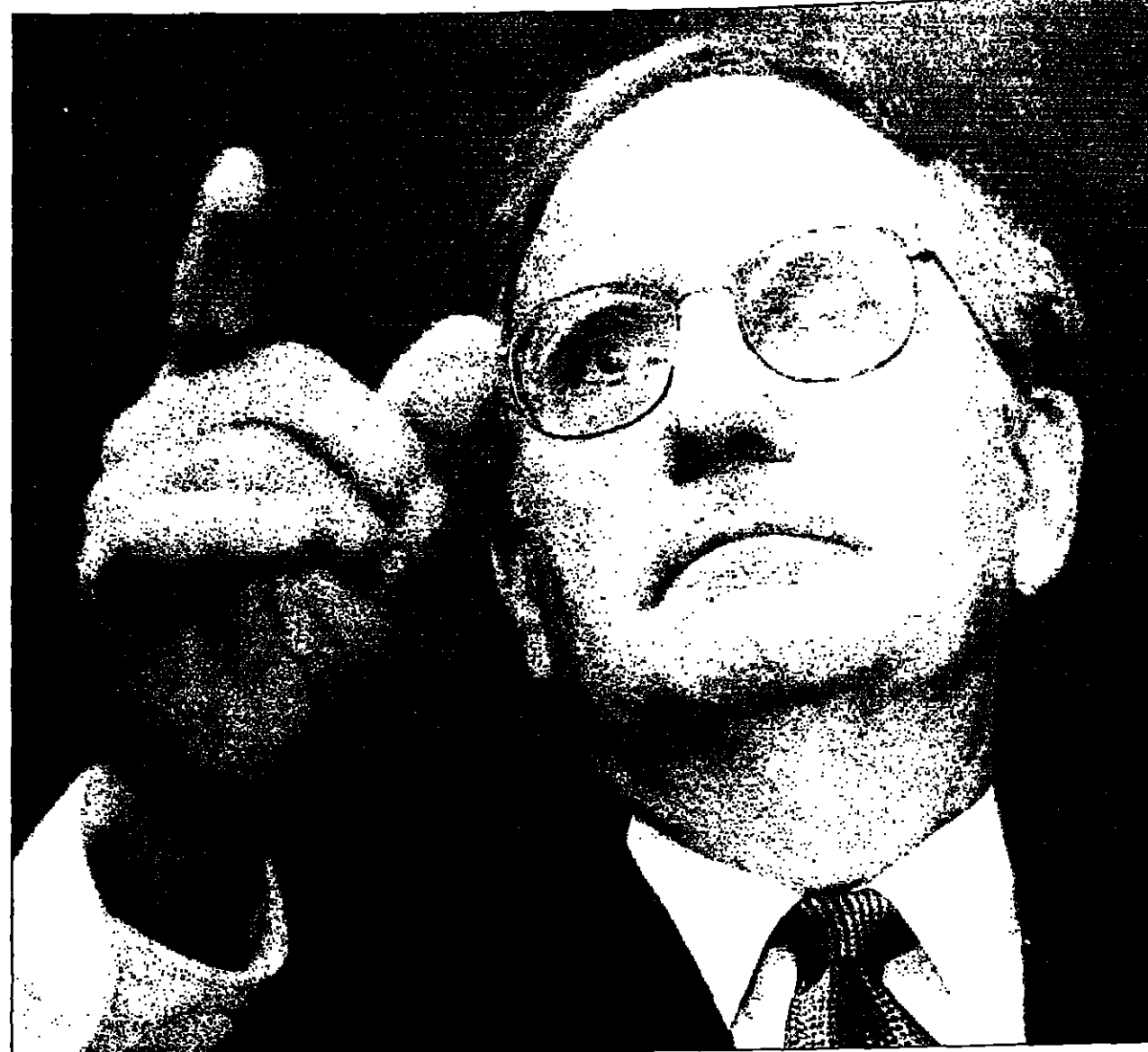
Mr Adams called the Sinn Fein pledge a watershed and an historic step, though he told journalists that he was not representing the IRA. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said the Government would hold Sinn Fein to its pledge with "total determination", but hoped that "at long last the ancient enmities of hatred and

sectarianism can be laid to rest and the people of Northern Ireland can have the future that they want and deserve". Sinn Fein can be expelled from the talks if it violates the principles.

However, Unionist and loyalist reaction was uniformly negative. The Ulster Unionist Party called the ceremony a charade. Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, dismissed as a "colossal lie" a claim by Paul Murphy, the political development minister, that Sinn Fein's pledge heralded a new era in which the gun would finally be removed from Ireland's politics. Spokesmen for the loyalist Ulster Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties called the ceremony a "sham".

The key question now is whether the UUP will attend the negotiations when they commence on Monday. The DUP and the UK Unionist Party have already walked out, and the DUP and UUP will almost certainly follow the UUP's lead.

David Trimble, the UUP leader, meets Mr Blair at Downing Street this afternoon and much will depend on the Prime Minister's response to written demands for ten confidence-building measures the UUP presented to him two weeks ago. These include an unequivocal public statement by Mr Blair that there can be no constitutional change in Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its



Mitchell in Belfast yesterday: "The important thing is that there be progress... the method is less important"

people, and a statement by the Irish and British governments that IRA disarmament will be required during the negotiations.

The UUP is further demanding the replacement of certain senior Northern Ireland Office officials that it does not trust, a grand committee at Westminster to consider Northern Ireland legislation, the maintenance of strong police and security forces and

the exemption of legally held weapons in Northern Ireland from the post-Dunblane ban on handguns.

In another bid to win over the UUP, the Government will name this week the members of an international commission to encourage and facilitate paramilitary disarmament. The expectation is that the UUP will rule out direct talks with Sinn Fein, at least initially, but turn up at

Stormont and negotiate through interlocutors instead. Mr Mitchell signalled that he could accept such an arrangement: "The important thing is that there be progress... The precise method of proceeding is less important."

The UUP is under great pressure not to abandon the negotiations. Mr Mitchell said political leaders had to seize the opportunity presented by the first talks in the history of

Northern Ireland accompanied by a ceasefire. Mr Adams and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, both pointed out that UUP councillors had no difficulty sitting down with Sinn Fein counterparts at local-government level.

Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, spoke of "an unprecedented prospect" and hoped Unionists would seize "the historic opportunity".

ADAMS' COMMITMENT TO PEACE

Sinn Fein yesterday affirmed their commitment to:

- democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues;
- the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations;
- agree that such disarmament must be verifiable to the satisfaction of an independent commission;
- renounce for themselves, and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threat

to use force, to influence the course of all-party negotiations.

□ agree to abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations and to resort to democratic and exclusively peaceful methods in trying to alter any aspect of that outcome with which they may disagree.

□ urge that punishment killings and beatings stop and to take effective steps to prevent such actions.

Weapons stockpiles pose continuing threat to peace

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA seems to be holding its breath during the lead-up to the talks next Monday, refraining from any activity that might be interpreted by the Loyalists as a breach of the ceasefire.

After the signing by Sinn Fein leaders yesterday of the six Mitchell principles, renouncing the use of violence, even the most extreme of the IRA "brigades" appeared to be

under orders to stay at home and to avoid any suspicious activity.

However, the security forces remain acutely aware that the secret arms dumps in the Irish Republic remain in place and IRA research by its technical experts is assumed to be continuing to improve bomb-making technology.

Nevertheless, targeting missions, dummy bombing runs, training and arms buying — activities which continued during the previous ceasefire announced in 1994 — have

been suspended. Security officials acknowledged that the latest ceasefire, announced on July 20, had held because of the different conditions laid down by Tony Blair. His declaration of two deadlines — September 9 for signing the Mitchell principles and September 15 for the start of all-party peace talks — had forced the IRA's hand.

Suspected IRA terrorists had been seen engaging in dummy bombing runs during the first ceasefire, when there was no declared timetable for

peace talks. Now the IRA has been inactive for almost two months, but the continued existence of secret arms caches of guns, Semtex explosives and advanced mortar systems poses a continuing threat to peace hopes.

The IRA's weapons stocks, stored in bunkers mostly thought to be inside isolated farm buildings and under silage pits in the Irish Republic to avoid airborne surveillance systems, include at least two of the accurate American Barrett

"Light 50" M82A1 heavy sniper rifles, about 650 AK47 rifles, up to 30 Armalite assault rifles, three tonnes of Semtex and an assortment of machineguns, rocket launchers, flame-throwers and home-made mortars.

The security authorities looking for signs of any IRA activities have concluded that the terrorist organisation has adopted an ultra-cautious position so as not to undermine Sinn Fein's negotiating strategy. However, there is an awareness that the

ceasefire is still in its early stages and that the IRA has control over a huge amount of weapons and explosives to revert to violence if the talks fail.

Most of the explosive devices used in the bombing campaign that was relaunched on the mainland in February last year, after the ending of the first ceasefire, were home-made. Only tiny amounts of Semtex were used, preserving the Libyan-supplied military explosive material for possible future use.

Purge

Continued from page 1
for early retirement. Both posts are to be advertised shortly. The third change occurred at the Treasury when Jill Rutter, a career civil servant, asked to return to policy duties. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had brought into Government his key aide, Charlie Whelan, who continued to liaise with journalists. Miss Rutter's former post has now been split, with Mr Whelan working for Mr Brown, and another Treasury official, Peter Curwen, appointed as head of the press office.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, also made political appointments when he came to office by making Jonathan Powell, who ran his Opposition office, his chief of staff, and Alastair Campbell his press secretary. Hilary Coffman and Tim Allan, who also worked in Mr Blair's press team, were recruited to the Downing Street press office as special advisers.

Mike Granat, the head of the Government Information Service, and director of information at the Home Office, has already ordered a review on how departments are managing their relations with the media.

He said last night: "We are in the business of delivering the service that Ministers want. If that requires examining the job that is actually being done, then we are doing that."

One of his most pressing changes is to buy in a media monitoring service.

Penalty points on licence may close bad pubs

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PUBLIC houses could be forced to close under a penalty points scheme aimed at cutting drink-related violence to be launched this month, the Government announced yesterday.

The "totting up" system, similar to that operating for motoring offences, would hit bad licensees who fail to keep order on their premises, allow under age drinking and consumption after closing time.

A year-long pilot scheme is to be launched in west Yorkshire in two weeks after the police and local magistrates have finalised what points will be given for offences and the total number that will lead to a licence being revoked.

Alun Michael, a junior Home Office Minister, also disclosed yesterday that the government was looking at two other proposals to cut the injuries caused by alcohol and the injuries caused by fights in and around licensed premises.

He wants to ensure that magistrates are provided with figures of the number of arrests at or near licensed premises when licences come up for renewal every three years. Mr Michael also said that ministers were looking at requiring city centre pubs and

clubs to serve drinks from toughened beer glasses to reduce the injuries caused when people smash glasses into another person's face.

The misuse of alcohol is another issue we have to address. Several senior police officers have told me that drink-related violence is now one of their biggest problems," he told the annual conference of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Anne Norton, chairman of the Magistrates' Association licensing subcommittee, said: "At the moment it is a very sloppy system. We are not always told about a history of trouble and we are not always told about trouble unless it reaches the criminal courts."

A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said it welcomed any measure that would cut down on problems that arose in licensed premises.

The proposals to deal with drink related violence were announced as Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, outlined plans to give police and local authorities powers to jail "neighbours from hell" and people who terrorise local communities with antisocial behaviour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colleges 'facing a global challenge'

British universities face global competition for students from international institutions modelled on the Open University, a World Bank expert told vice-chancellors in London yesterday.

Julian Schweitzer said international studies suggested that charging fees did not deter students from entering higher education. However, their introduction had to be accompanied by flexible loan programmes and diversity in the types of courses available. Higher education was becoming more a market-driven worldwide as universities faced the same funding problems that were driving Britain towards introducing fees, Mr Schweitzer said. Among the results would be more choice for students and greater competition for their recruitment.

Planes crashed

Air Canada has instructed its pilots to exercise extreme caution when taxiing at congested parts of Heathrow after the pilot of a Canadian jumbo taxiing for take-off at the airport thought passengers were imagining things when they reported that his wing tip had hit another aircraft nearby. The airport has set up a working group to review procedures after an official report into the incident.

Ambulance case

A man died after two members of an ambulance crew turned down their radio to avoid hearing emergency calls, an administrator of the London Ambulance Service told an industrial tribunal. Harry Clutterbuck, 86, died in hospital after another ambulance was contacted. Robert Foster and Jim McGregor claim they were unfairly dismissed for gross misconduct. The hearing continues.

E coli deaths

Two elderly patients have died and 11 others have been put in isolation after an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning at a hospital in Northampton, north Yorkshire. Another patient is recovering and a nurse is under observation. Officials at the Friarage Hospital said it was believed that the infection had been brought in by a patient undergoing treatment for another condition.

Attack database

France's investigating magistrate in the Caroline Dickinson murder case has ordered police to interview the keepers of every youth hostel in that country, so that a database of similar incidents can be built up. Caroline, 13, was raped and murdered in July last year in the youth hostel of the Brittany village of Pléne-Fougères. An attack at a nearby hostel, the same night, was reported at the time.

Naval review

A new Ministry of Defence working party has been set up to review the role of women in the Armed Forces — which could mean the end of all-men submarines. Even in the latest Astute class submarines, much of the crew will continue to operate the traditional "hot-bunking" system, under which crew members coming off one watch climb into warm bunks vacated by other sailors.

Ship's last cruise

The cruise liner *Canberra* sails from Southampton today on its final voyage before being broken up for scrap. A two-year search for a buyer for the ship, designed to take British emigrants to Australia, has failed. She is due to return to Southampton on September 30 and will be taken to a breaker's yard, probably in the Far East. The 30-year-old ship falls many new international safety laws.

Wife wins case for rape by husband

Continued from page 1
could get under the statutory compensation scheme for rape. Under the old Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, a woman raped by her estranged husband was awarded £25,000 in 1992 to cover mental and physical injuries.

Chris Barton, Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University, said: "I know of no other action where the wife has sued successfully in the civil courts for the trespass of rape."

"It is all very American in terms of allowing yet a further incursion of the law into the privacy of the family."

Describing her ordeal on the night of Boxing Day, 1992, the woman said she was asleep when her husband, who had been drinking, came in late. She awoke to find herself being violently sexually assaulted. She was then raped.

"For days after the attack, I was in shock," she said. "I just couldn't believe my husband could have carried out such a despicable act... I just didn't know who to turn to. I felt no one would listen and that no one would believe what had happened."

"So, partly because of the children and partly because I

felt I did not have a case, I ended up staying with him. It was a terrible time. I used to feel physically sick and start shaking at bedtimes. He could not understand why I was acting the way I was — he did not think he had done anything wrong."

The woman finally broke her silence two months later when she spoke to a psychiatric nurse her husband asked to visit her because he was concerned about her behaviour. The police were informed but no charges were brought. It was not until 16 months later that she decided to bring her civil action.

Yesterday she said: "I am glad I continued with the case. It was hard at the time, and could be upsetting because my husband was sitting in court as I was giving my evidence. But we won in the end and, if nothing else happens from the case, I hope other women will be encouraged to use it in their fight for justice."

Mark Husband, her solicitor, said: "This is the first time a woman has sued her husband for rape." He said he had suggested bringing the action after a colleague handling the woman's divorce settlement sought his advice over the assault.

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England rugby star 'put hand down my trousers'

Former international John Hall denies indecent assault during wine bar victory celebration

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE former England rugby star John Hall put his hand down a woman's trousers and squeezed her bottom during a hard-drinking celebration with some of the country's top players, a court heard yesterday.

His alleged victim, a 24-year-old student, told Bristol Crown Court that Hall, then manager of Bath RFC, accosted her in a wine bar while celebrating victory over Will Carling's Harlequins in December last year. With him were the Bath and England players Ben Clarke, Jeremy Guscott, Adedayo Adebayo and Steve Ojomoh.

The trainee teacher described how Hall tried to kiss her on the lips and then assaulted her. But Hall, 35, who was capped 22 times, told the jury that it was the woman who had pinched his bottom and that she only complained after he had rejected her advances.

The student said she recognised Hall from television and newspaper appearances when he grabbed her wrist and asked her to meet his friends. He gave her a peck on the cheek, she said, and added: "He went to kiss me on the lips. I pulled away and told him to stop. I had never met the man before in my life."

"I felt his hand go to the

back of my trousers and down my knickers and touch my bottom. I was disgusted. I struggled away and said, 'You shouldn't have done that.'"

Michael Mather-Lees, for the prosecution, said: "The young woman has an absolute right not to be touched against her will. The issue is whether you believe the complainant or the defendant."

Hall, who denies indecent assault, told the jury that he had been standing at the bar when he felt someone pinching his bottom. He said: "I probably had seven or eight pints. I felt merry but I was completely in control. Some girls behind me pinched my bum several times. I ignored it initially, but when it carried on I said to one girl, 'Please stop pinching my bum.'"

"We had a very short chat. She pushed herself towards me and started kissing me. She pushed her tongue into my mouth in a French kiss."

"I reciprocated because I felt flattered that an attractive young lady was doing this. Then I pulled away and thought better of it. I was engaged to be married and also it was not generally the right thing to do."

"It shocked me to think she pushed herself on to me. I felt embarrassed, really."

He said that shortly afterwards, "two gentlemen came up and started making allega-



Jeremy Guscott, left, was one of the wine bar revellers. Jack Rowell gave evidence as a character witness



tions to me. They were extremely aggressive which took me back. They said, 'You tried to put your hands down a girl's trousers.'"

"I was dumbfounded. I am quite a shy person and I was very concerned about what they were saying. Ben Clarke said, 'Let's go' but I said, 'No, let's stay for the police.'"

Cross-examined by Richard Smith, for the defence, the woman, whose boyfriend is a police officer, claimed Hall had said "Let's make that a proper snog" as he tried to kiss her on the lips. She denied that she had been flirting with the rugby star. She said: "I just made polite conversation and I wasn't aware of any of the

girls flirting with them." Asked if she had kissed him first, she replied: "No disrespect, but why would I want to kiss him?"

She added: "He tried to plant his lips on mine and I think he did plant his lips on mine. I pulled back. I was angered. As I pulled back I must have moved to one side. I felt a full hand on the cheek of my bottom and he tried to put his hand further. I just pulled away."

"I walked off and turned back and saw him grabbing and kissing a blonde girl."

The jury was shown the black, flared trousers with unelasticated waist that she was wearing on the night of

the incident. They were told she had also been wearing a short skirt which was not tucked in.

Mr Smith asked the witness to hold up the black trousers and show the jury the lack of "give" in the waist band and the difficulty anyone would have had putting a hand down them.

Mr Smith said: "You kissed this man John Hall quite willingly. Then knowing that was the wrong thing to have done you have made up a lie that he touched your bottom."

At one point during cross-examination the petite brunette broke down and had to leave the dock for ten minutes. Hall, of Slaughterford, Wiltshire, was ousted as Bath's director of rugby earlier this year.

Jack Rowell, the former England team manager, was called as a character witness. Mr Rowell, 60, told the court: "I have known John for 20 years. I choose my friends very carefully and he is one of them. In my many years of coaching there have been only half a dozen people I have met and would call friends."

"I have never seen John off the field abuse his physique. I don't think he has a propensity for unacceptable behaviour. When I heard about the allegations via a third party both I and my wife were shocked."

The case continues.



John Hall, the Bath player, leaving Bristol Crown Court after the hearing

Teenage machete killer weeps after murder verdict

REPORTS BY ADAM FRESCO AND RICHARD DUCE

WEEPING and wringing his hands, the leader of a teenage triad-style gang was led away to a cell yesterday after he was convicted of murdering a boy with a machete.

An Old Bailey judge ordered that Nathan Brown, 16, be detained indefinitely for the killing outside a south London school. He had left his 14-year-old victim, Carl Rickard, with blood pouring from his head and pleading: "What did I do, what did I do?"

He was chosen for the attack because Brown, then 15, believed that he had slighted the gang he led, called the Golden Snakes. With other gang members, Brown took a minicab to the boy's school in Kidbrooke last January and attacked him outside the gates.

Carl was punched and kicked to the ground and stabbed three times with the 17in blade that Brown kept in his locker at another school near by. Carl died later in hospital.

The court was told that the gang ran away laughing afterwards and Brown, said to have a fixation with martial arts, later boasted: "We got him. We done the job. I chopped him."

Brown, described as a loner and a mummy's boy, had admitted manslaughter but denied murder, claiming that he had feigned the attack and had not meant to cause serious



Nathan Brown, left, described as a mummy's boy, stabbed Carl Rickard in front of a gang of friends



injury. As the jury returned the verdict, Carl's sister, Sally, leapt from her seat and punched the air.

Outside court, Carl's mother, Lyn, said: "I hate Nathan Brown so much but I don't want revenge on him or his family because I don't want his mum to feel how I feel."

"I am just a shell. These days I laugh and joke, but it is a dead laugh. I hate getting up every morning. CJ is on my brain 24 hours, seven days a week. I cannot wait until the day I am with him again."

Orlando Powell, for the prosecution, had told the jury: Brown was a member of a gang known as 14K which modelled itself on Chinese triads. The Crown's case is that he was the leader of a section of the gang known as the Golden Snakes.

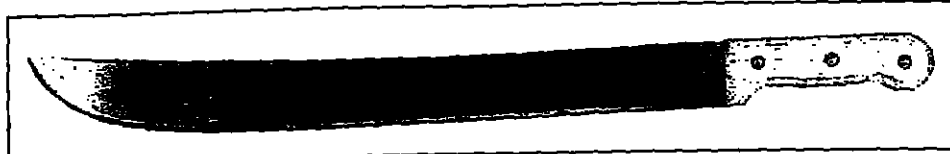
"One of the gang punched Rickard in the face and then the whole gang attacked him."

The initial attack was short-lived and he was quickly overwhelmed. The defendant, who was at the back of the group, pulled his machete from the sheath and shouted at them to move away. He then struck Rickard over the head. Rickard was left shouting for help, bleeding profusely from a head wound.

He said a search of Brown's bedroom revealed a note book in which he gave the rules of gang membership. It said: "Never reveal secrets to anyone, especially the police. If I do, me and my family will suffer." The book also said that gang members had to carry an offensive weapon.

Judge Clive Taylor ordered that Brown's name be disclosed, although he is a juvenile. "This is an extremely serious case. It seems to me that the interests of the community outweigh those of this defendant," the judge said.

Gang identity enticed vulnerable youngsters



The machete used by Nathan Brown in the murder; afterwards he ran off laughing

STATUS and street credibility are the aim for the thousands of boys who have joined gangs styled on the Chinese Triads in Britain's inner cities.

Although police have been aware of their emergence for several years it was not until a Triad-style gang was held responsible for the death of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence that the public became aware of them.

Nathan Brown fits the police blueprint for a gang member. He was a loner, came from a broken home and found no sense of identity until he joined a gang. It gave him a sense of status and belonging, allegiance to a violent code and a belief that he had found true friends for

the first time. Police believe it is this teenage vulnerability that makes boys of Brown's age prime candidates for gang recruitment.

One police source, close to the Brown murder inquiry, said: "They all wear the clothes of the Triads, baggy trousers and bandanas. It is becoming a growing problem. Witnesses have told us there are thousands of members of these gangs around the country."

The emergence of the schoolboy gangs is rooted in the activities of a real Triad gang, known as 14K, which began recruiting youngsters in the early 1990s.

Youngsters of all races and backgrounds were drawn in, mainly in London, to help

them to extort money from restaurant owners.

Groups of youths would go into these premises and cause trouble for the owners, but police, who did not then realise they were part of a larger criminal organisation, would often not take a tough line with them.

Once police finally realised what was happening officers in the West End began cracking down on the youngsters, forcing them to stay away from their favourite haunts.

These youngsters, excited by the world into which they had stumbled, then returned to their homes across London and the Home Counties and set up their own gangs based on the workings of the 14K gang.

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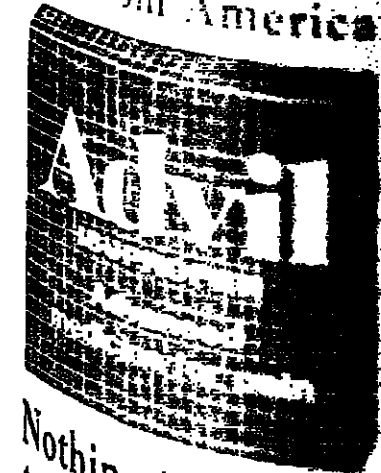
Richard D

Chickenpox
in adult life
can be lethal

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Shipwrecked family sail away with new baby

UNDAUNTED by a shipwreck that nearly cost them their lives, the Schinas family is taking to the ocean again with a fifth crew member — a two-week-old baby girl.

Nick and Jill Schinas, together with their children Xoe, 5, and Matthew, 4, were plucked from their 43ft ketch in mountainous seas during a helicopter rescue in the South Atlantic in January last year. Now, after rebuilding the boat in Chichester, West Sussex, they have set sail again for the Mediterranean.

One midwife yesterday described the latest adventure as "bonkers". Mrs Schinas was undeterred by the prospect of caring for a baby at sea.

She said: "I suppose most people think we are mad, leaving to sail the globe with a two-week-old child after what has happened to us. But this is the only life we know and every day is a real-life geography lesson for the kids. Wherever we put in at port, the children eat the local food and meet the local children."

Mr Schinas, 41, who gave up jobs in journalism and the motor trade to devote his life to sailing, spent £8,000 having his ketch *Maamari* towed

Couple who had to be rescued last year are off again with two-week-old daughter, writes

Richard Duce

back from the Falklands to the south coast. He and his 36-year-old wife are experienced sailors and married seven years ago on the Amazon. Their two eldest children were born in Antigua.

Before setting off last week-end with the new baby, Roxanne, on board, Mr Schinas said: "We have had one bad experience but having one car crash doesn't necessarily stop you driving. We have no plans to ever return to Britain. We will just go anywhere the mood takes us. I have no worries at all about the safety of my family. I'd be more worried living in London."

"I am confident a two-week-old baby is safer at sea than on dry land. Roxanne was born

on board *Maamari* with the help of a midwife and then we couldn't wait to be off again. My children have spent their lives sailing. They have never seen a classroom and have no idea what bullying and violence means."

"They have never watched television, used a computer or eaten a Big Mac. Their education is travelling with us, watching dolphins swim beside the hull."

"We probably will go back to the South Atlantic because the kids want to see king penguins but it won't be just yet."

The Royal College of Midwives said the ocean journey for a two-week-old baby gave cause for concern. "It is a matter of parental choice but it is not something that we would recommend. We would have concerns if baby needed assistance while out at sea and young children can get ill very quickly."



Nick and Jill Schinas with Roxanne, Matthew and Xoe on their ketch. "A baby is safer at sea," Mr Schinas says

Dentist's patients win £2m damages

By PAUL WILKINSON

NEARLY a hundred patients of a dentist who left them physically and mentally damaged when he carried out unnecessary treatment have accepted compensation totalling up to £2 million.

The out-of-court settlement ends an eight-year legal battle by people who attended the one-man practice run by Barry Garrett, 48, in the East Yorkshire market town of Driffield. He treated healthy teeth so that he would be paid for the work.

One patient, Jane Appleton, was 15 when she started 25 visits over two years, involving 99 separate treatments to 13 teeth. The damage cost £43,000 to put right.

Mr Garrett admitted negligence through his counsel. The damages will be paid by the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland.

He was struck off in 1989 for serious professional misconduct but reinstated in 1991 after retraining. He was last heard of a year ago practising in northwest England.

Chickenpox in adult life can be lethal



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

A father has been killed by chickenpox days after catching it from the four-year-old son he was nursing. Terry Rouson, 34, died four days after falling ill with the disease.

Antibiotics failed to control the acute infection, which spread into his lungs, leaving him unconscious and scarcely able to breathe. He died in hospital and the post-mortem examination showed the cause as a lung infection derived from chickenpox.

To be near his son, Jake, Mr Rouson had followed his former girlfriend Jenny Littler, 36, to Colchester from his home in Plymouth after they separated. When the boy became ill he volunteered to nurse him.

The greatest disaster expected when children catch chickenpox is that they might be left with a permanent pitted scar on their face. It is very different when adults catch chickenpox or if they are immunocompromised, for then scarring is the least of the worries.

Many immuno-compromised patients are taking steroids or other immunosuppressant drugs. Others may be suffering from chronic kidney or similar serious diseases and some are HIV positive. Contacts of people with chickenpox who belong to one of these high risk groups can be protected by giving them appropriate immunisation.

Chickenpox is caused by a virus, varicella, one of the herpes group. It is normally a disease of childhood and during this period it is only rarely serious.

When patients develop a severe attack, the rash, which appears in crops, is usually spread all over the body including the mouth, larynx, trachea and bronchial tubes. It can also cause severe herpetic ulcers in the vagina, rectum and under the eyelids.

The acute viral infection can be serious, even lethal, as the case of Mr Rouson has shown. He died from pneumonia, a well-documented complication of chickenpox in adults. Pneumonia is caused by the virus rather than from secondary bacterial infection, and so does not respond to antibiotics but anti-viral agents can prove helpful.

Other complications that affect adults, or immuno-compromised patients, are inflammation of the heart muscle, of the joints or even hepatitis. A particularly unpleasant complication is encephalopathy. Inflammation of the tissue of the brain usually starts a fortnight after the rash started, by which time the patient is feeling better, the initial blisters have dried and the first scabs are separating. Last year 25 people in Britain died from chickenpox, 20 of whom were adults.



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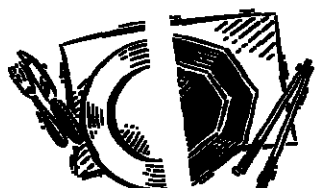
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Third test confirms crash driver had drunk heavily

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A THIRD set of tests on the body of Henri Paul, the chauffeur of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died, has confirmed that he was driving with more than three times the legal alcohol limit in his blood. The findings open the way for possible prosecution of his employers, the Paris Ritz hotel, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

The tests, demanded by the family of the dead driver and Mr Al Fayed, were carried out by Paris Medical-Legal Institute and indicated that M Paul, 41, had an alcohol level of 1.8 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

The two earlier tests, carried out immediately after the accident but challenged by Mr Al Fayed and the Paul family, revealed levels of 1.75 and 1.85 grammes per litre, roughly equivalent to drinking one and a half bottles of wine. The legal limit for driving in France is 0.5 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

Yesterday's tests technically leave the management of the Ritz open to prosecution under French law on charges of "negligence" or "endangering the life of another person" for permitting Mr Paul to drive while intoxicated. M Paul, who was deputy director of security for the Paris Ritz, also allegedly lacked the qualifications required to drive the Mercedes.

The funeral of M Paul, which was delayed pending the final tests, is expected to take place today in his home town of Lorient in Brittany. Nine photographers and a motorcycle driver employed by a photographic agency, said to be in pursuit of the Princess and Dodi Fayed, remain under formal legal investigation on charges of manslaughter and failure to assist the victims.

In a further attempt to place blame for the crash on the paparazzi, Bernard Darteville, Mr Al Fayed's lawyer, claimed that a photograph taken just before the crash shows M Paul and the Princess's bodyguard apparently drinking from a camera, while the Princess is turned around in the back seat to look at a pursuing motorcycle. The photograph and others indicating it was taken after their departure from the



French magistrates yesterday visiting the tunnel in Paris where the Mercedes carrying the Princess crashed

Ritz, are in the possession of police, M Darteville said.

Mr Al Fayed's lawyers have filed civil law suits against two publications and two picture agencies alleging they "invaded the privacy and endangered the life" of the Princess and her friend by snatching photographs of them from a helicopter during their holiday last month.

They also claimed that two weeks before the fatal crash, the press was asked to stop harassing the couple. The suit alleges photographers working for *Paris Match*, *France Dimanche* and two unidentified agencies invaded the couple's privacy in the South of France.

Investigating magistrates visited the Paris road tunnel where the crash took place for the first time yesterday, aiming to reconstruct the events leading up to the tragedy.

Although investigators have denied claims of a preliminary report indicating that the photographers could not be held responsible for the accident, police are increasingly leaning towards the belief that the crash was caused by alcohol and excessive speed.

Investigators have not come to a formal conclusion on the car's speed but police sources say they believe that it was being driven at more than 90mph.

Max Coblenz, the lawyer for two of the photographers, said: "There will have to be a re-enactment of the accident before any decision is taken that might clear the photographers, and it will be some months before this can take place."

Germans press for ban on landmines

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HAMBURG

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday told Robin Cook of Germany's deep sorrow at the death of the Princess and his determination to redouble efforts to achieve a total landmine ban to honour her memory.

In a generous tribute, Herr Kinkel said her death was a great loss and the world had a responsibility to continue her commitment in the fight against landmines. Mr Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said Britain and Germany would

jointly do their utmost to achieve a ban.

Mr Cook told German reporters that there was a new sense of solidarity and commitment in Britain that had been discovered by all those joined together in their grief. He urged Britons to make the most of this commitment to the causes she supported.

German devastation at her death was still clearly evident in Hamburg, where the gateway to the British Consulate has been heaped with flowers left by mourners.

Althorp 'will be new Graceland'

Earl considers how best to provide access for public without profit, reports Daniel McGrory

EARL SPENCER insisted yesterday that he does not want to profit from his sister's death as he decides how best to open his estate Althorp to the millions who want to visit her grave.

Thousands more descended on the Northamptonshire estate yesterday to leave flowers in spite of an appeal from the earl not to do so. Many hoped that their blooms would find their way onto the island where the Princess is buried but the earl said the land is already carpeted with flowers and can accommodate no more.

The earl has begun consultations about what to do at Althorp. From the moment that he decided to bury his sister in the grounds he realised that his home would be besieged by people wishing to visit the grave but his staff say it will take several weeks before he is ready to announce how many days it will open to the public. A spokesman said: "He needs to talk to the police and

the local authority about coping with what will be huge numbers who want to honour Diana."

The earl will restrict the number of days that the public will visit. He has yet to decide whether to charge an entrance fee but a spokesman said: "He certainly does not want to be seen as making money out of his sister's tragic death. His concern is to protect her privacy so no one will set foot on the island where Diana is buried but to allow people to honour her safely and with dignity."

The British Tourist Authority said that if the estate was open all year it would instantly become Britain's biggest tourist attraction with more than a million visitors. One tourism expert

said: "Althorp will be Buckingham Palace and Graceland rolled into one. Millions will want to come but it just depends how many he wants to let in."

Like so many owners of stately homes, Earl Spencer has struggled for years to balance the books of a 121-room house and an 8,500-acre estate that was losing £450,000 a year. He had to pay £1.5 million in death duties when he inherited the decaying pile from his father in 1992.

He was appalled that his stepmother, Raine Spencer, had sold paintings, furniture and heirlooms supposedly to reduce the debt and yet spent more than £2 million on refurbishments which he dismissed as making the house like "a five-star hotel in Mona-

co". His problem was that Althorp was never much of a money-making attraction. Tourists came for the first few months after the Princess's wedding but last year in the 60 days Earl Spencer opened the gates to tourists at £5 a head fewer than 10,000 turned up. The British Tourist Authority said that so few came it did not include it in its list of popular attractions.

Among the most urgent questions the earl has to address about Althorp's future is whether he will now give up his home in South Africa and return to permanent residence. Staff say that this is unlikely as his four children live with their mother, Victoria, in Cape Town where the earl spends much of the winter.

The likely compromise is that he will live at Althorp when he opens it for a limited number of days in the summer around the anniversary of the Princess's death.

Logo gives memorial fund added protection

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

MERCHANDISE sold in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund will carry the fund's official logo in an attempt to stop unscrupulous traders profiting from fake memorabilia.

Companies and individuals wanting to collect money for the charity will also be required to use the logo, which has been commissioned by the Princess's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, who are administering the fund.

A spokeswoman for the fund said that several draft designs for a logo had been produced and were awaiting a decision by the Spencer family. "We are in the process of producing an official logo but have not shown anything to the family yet," she said.

The logo is likely to be registered with the Patent Office. It is expected that a condition of its use will be the payment of royalties to the fund.

John Slater, president of the Institute of Trade Mark Agents, welcomed the decision to commission an official trade mark and said that the institute was willing to pro-

vide free advice on how to register the logo worldwide as quickly as possible. "We cannot guarantee that unscrupulous traders will not try to cash in on this sad occasion but on what we can do is ensure that the legal framework is in place to take action against them," he said.

The logo will help the fund to benefit from an anticipated huge demand for memorabilia. Halkyon Days Enamels, based in London, is to produce two enamel boxes with portraits of the Princess. Susan Benjamin, managing director, said: "We were not going to produce anything but we have been overwhelmed by hundreds of re-

quests from all over the world. A significant proportion of the profits will be given to the fund."

A spokeswoman for Wedgwood, which has been making royal memorabilia for more than 200 years, said that it was considering a piece in memory of the Princess in response to international demand. Royal Worcester and Aynsley China are also considering the production of commemorative pieces. The fund has already given permission for Safeway to place collecting tins in 490 supermarkets.

Paul Fredericks, spokesman for the Charity Commission, which is advising the fund, added: "If individuals are suspicious of anybody collecting on behalf of a charity, but wish to support the cause, an effective way to ensure that their money reaches the charity is to donate direct to it."

Donations should be addressed to: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, PO Box 1, WC1B 5HW. Credit card donations may be made by telephoning 0990 66 44 22. Cheques and cash may be paid into the fund at all main banks, building societies and post offices.

The Mall may be closed to cars for good

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

ANOTHER 40,000 people flocked to Kensington Palace yesterday to lay more tributes as the Government considered renaming Kensington Gardens in the Princess's honour.

The new Whitehall committee, chaired by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will also look at closing The Mall to traffic as a permanent memorial and a new foundation to fund her humanitarian work.

Officials are drawing up plans to redesign Kensington Gardens to accommodate the thousands of visitors who are expected to turn up at the Princess's former London home to honour her memory.

Officials say they will begin tomorrow the huge operation to move 10,000 tonnes of flowers and to collect the personal messages and tributes which will be stored in an archive until the Spencer family and Buckingham Palace decide what should be done with them. Buckingham Palace said it will save the half a million messages of condolence sent on the Internet.

The Government accepts that the public will want to walk the route of the funeral procession for some time and space will be made at the London palaces for tributes.

Among those coming to Kensington Palace yesterday was Dr Jean Ford, 51, an educational lecturer who made a 24-hour, 3,000-mile round trip from Chicago to lay flowers.

Gifts such as soft toys are being collected by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and if they have not been damaged by rain will be given to children's wards in hospitals or to children's charities. Other gifts laid in tribute — there were many bottles of champagne — will be handed to her charities for resale.

Haydn Phillips, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, yesterday wrote to local authority chief executives, lord-lieutenants and religious leaders across the country about the plans for gathering the tributes. The Government is determined that all the personal tokens should be handled in a sensitive fashion.

But government sources said yesterday there were now issues of public health and safety to consider and they could no longer allow the floral tribute, now five feet deep, at Kensington Gardens to remain untouched. Many flowers have decomposed and the temperature inside the mass could be up to 180F.

Civil servants are also to launch a review into the lessons to be drawn from the handling of the funeral. The most likely is the need for planning flexibility.

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Protect princes until 21, says press watchdog

PRINCES William and Harry should be protected from the media spotlight until they leave university, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission said yesterday.

He was pleased that there had been no "hounding" of the princes by British newspapers since an agreement was struck with Buckingham Palace two years ago. He said, however, that he was looking to extend protection for the princes until they finished their education around the age of 21.

Lord Wakeham also said that if the self-regulatory system was to meet public expectations, it must extend beyond the Royals to the public. However, he said he was against privacy legislation because he believed that it would mean less chance "of the ordinary guy on an ordinary budget" getting redress because of court costs. "The one thing I can say for certain about the PCC is it is quick and it is cheap. It costs nothing to complain to the PCC and that would disappear if there was a privacy law."

Lord Wakeham's comments came at a press conference at the London Press Club in his first public statement since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The PCC's chairman has spoken to national newspaper editors by telephone

Lord Wakeham is seeking to extend the voluntary ban on photographs of children. **Damian Whitworth says**

and is touring offices to discuss revisions to the newspaper and media industry's code of practice in relation to privacy.

Next week he intends to hold a meeting with the PCC's Code of Practice committee, which is made up of representatives from the industry to discuss how best to revise the code. Lord Wakeham said that it was essential to make swift progress with the review, which will consider in particular the problem of the paparazzi "so dramatically and so tragically highlighted by the events of the last 10 days".

"Just over two years ago, before Prince William started his time at Eton, I set out the terms of a strict agreement between the Palace and the press on coverage of the young Prince studying at school," Lord Wakeham said. "That agreement — which applies as

much to both the princes as it does to any other child — made clear that the terms of Clause 12 of the industry's Code of Practice on the reporting of children had to be observed absolutely, even with regard to the most high-profile young person. This agreement has been observed with the diligence I would expect from all editors."

"When they have been at school, there has never been any 'hounding' of either of the young royal princes by any newspapers. As editors across the industry have unanimously been making clear over the last few days, there never will be — and the Press Complaints Commission is there to ensure that."

"I should also make clear that, in my own personal view, that means respecting their privacy while they are studying beyond the age of 16 as well. Indeed, there should be no arbitrary age limit on their right to study and to grow up without intrusion into their privacy. This is an issue which I will strive to create unity across the industry."

"The responsibility shown by all editors in upholding the Code — even when the temptations are very great — shows the strength of self-regulation in practice. For, while there is of course a tremendous global market for pictures of this sort,



Lord Wakeham addresses the London Press Club yesterday. The princes' privacy must be respected throughout their education, he said

all editors — national and regional — have shown great restraint over publishing any of them."

Lord Wakeham said he believed the deal relating to the princes pointed the way forward for editors and the PCC across a wider range of fronts. "As the Prime Minister rightly said on Sunday, things will never be the same again for any of us. I think all editors

will heed these words, and will be thinking carefully about how they cover the private lives of all public figures."

"My concern — as always — is to ensure that the self-regulatory system meets public expectations. That means continuing to ensure protection not just to those in the public eye — but to ordinary people who from time to time

find themselves in the headlights of publicity."

"My concern today is rightly about Prince William and Prince Harry but my concern extends to all children who have a right to grow up free from intrusive journalism and it might be a question of us producing a separate note of guidance for children of public figures. By that I mean not only recognised public figures

but people who are for one reason or another suddenly thrust into the public limelight."

Asked whether his proposed toughening of the code might prove inadequate once Prince William and Prince Harry began courting, he replied: "There are difficulties in the whole of this area and it would be crazy of me to say within a few days of this great tragedy I

can solve all of these problems in a short time." Other options Lord Wakeham said he was considering included tightening the requirement for editors to satisfy themselves that photographs from freelancers had been obtained in circumstances which did not break the current code of practice on privacy.

Media, pages 22,23

Dahlias by royal request in bloom

By ERIC REGULY

SPECIAL pink dahlias requested by the Princess two years ago have come into bloom in the garden of an amateur horticulturalist.

Robin Marks had intended to deliver the fully developed plants to her this month so that they could be grown at Kensington Palace. He now hopes they will be planted on the island at Althorp where she is buried.

Four years ago, Mr Marks wrote to the Home Office to get permission to develop a special dahlia for the Princess. He was told that she would like one in

blood red, to be called the "Princess of Wales". The Royal Horticultural Society determined that the name had already been used for a dahlia from 1867. The conflict was resolved by naming the new dahlia "Countess of Chester", which was registered with the society in 1995.

Impressed by Mr Marks's effort, the Princess asked him during a meeting at Kensington Palace to develop another dahlia, this time in pink. The "Lady of the Isles", as it was called, was registered with the society in June last year. Mr Marks showed the prototype to the

Princess two months later at Kensington Palace. "She wrote me a letter saying that she was very touched by all the effort I put into the dahlias," he said.

Mr Marks, 50, grew about 50 of the pink dahlias in his garden at Stillwaters, his house in Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. When the Princess died, he took the half-a-dozen in bloom to Kensington Palace, where they were placed inside.

He has about 150 in bud and plans to sell them at £4 to £5 each, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.



Marks with the two special dahlias

Shand Kydd denies rift

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE mother of the Princess yesterday added her voice to denials that there had been a rift between the Royal Family and the Spencers over the burial of her daughter.

In a hand-written statement to the Press Association, Frances Shand Kydd said: "This is a personal plea. I ask please that the two families which are William and Harry's blood relations may be sustained in our loving hopes and prayers of those two brave boys. There is no division, nor has

there been, between their paternal and maternal relations. Grief has no agenda or timetable. Please I ask, personally, allow us individually and collectively to give William and Harry ourselves — and the hugs of the world."

Earl Spencer earlier denied that he clashed with Buckingham Palace over arrangements for his sister's funeral. "To suggest that there were divisions between royal officials and me in the period after my sister's death is so far from the

truth as to be laughable," he said. "We were united in the aim of giving Diana a suitable funeral and all arrangements were agreed amicably between the Lord Chamberlain's office and myself."

Earl Spencer was responding to a Channel 4 News report of disagreements between the two families. It was claimed that the Prince of Wales was at the centre of bitter arguments with the Queen's senior aide within hours of the death of the Princess.

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How the creation of the Union nearly came to grief

MANY of the passionate arguments that have dominated the 1997 campaign to create a Scottish parliament echo those heard when the last one was abolished, 290 years ago. What is less well known is how close the Union was — and how nearly the whole arrangement came to collapse.

Within just six years of its establishment the Earl of Seafield, who had commended the Union in the first place, was on his feet in the House of Lords proposing its dissolution. His motion was very narrowly defeated. The awful warning of 1707 is that the testing time for any new constitutional arrangement is not the day of

decision itself but the bedding-in process that follows.

Union between Scotland and England was on the cards every since William and Mary were offered the Scottish Crown in 1689. In the following years the economic argument — as now — predominated. Scottish traders found their outlets to foreign ports denied by England's naval strength and an attempt to create a Scottish colony on the Darien peninsula had ended disastrously. But there was a strong sense too that continuing the status quo would ultimately be less stable than a new constitutional arrangement. Union, said Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, "is the best expedient to preserve the honour



When Scotland's constitutional status was changed in 1707, it was by dint of manoeuvre, and before long the new arrangements hit trouble, Magnus Linklater writes

and liberties of Scotland".

That argument was bitterly opposed. The Scottish people were largely against, and a Union Treaty would have been defeated heavily in the Edinburgh parliament of the day. It took bribery and sharp practice in high quarters to manoeuvre a vote through. Just as Labour proposed an unexpected

referendum in 1997 as a way of heading off opposition, so, in 1705, the Duke of Hamilton, apparently a doughty supporter of continuing independence, introduced a manoeuvre that would win a slim majority of members in support of the treaty.

He suggested that a commission to examine the terms of a possible

Union be set up and headed by Queen Anne. It was a masterstroke — who could object to royalty taking a hand? A division was rushed through and carried late at night by just four votes. No one quite knows how it was done but one estimate suggests that £20,000 in bribes changed hands. The Duke himself was later appointed to the Order of the Thistle and the Garter and made ambassador in Paris.

Astonishingly, he managed to persuade the country that he remained a supporter of independence. When the Union formally came into being on May 1, two years later, a toothache conveniently prevented His Grace being in the House. Any parallels with John

Major's diplomatic toothache at the time of Margaret Thatcher's loss of the Tory leadership are, of course, in deplorably bad taste.

As the old parliament came to an end Lord Seafield, the Chancellor of Scotland, proclaimed: "There's an end of an auld sang." But he agreed with the Duke of Roxburgh who described the Union's aims as: "Trade with most, Hanover with some, ease and security with others, together with a general aversion to civil discords." Soon, however, came riots in Glasgow, rebellions in southwest Scotland, and a French invasion. Far from the Union leading to prosperity, the Scottish economy suffered badly to begin with. In the

British Cabinet, the Scots were unrepresented and Scottish business largely ignored.

By 1713 Lord Seafield was convinced that the Union was not working and proposed a Bill to dissolve it. The Bill failed in the House of Lords by four votes. The treaty was not conclusively entrenched until after the failed Jacobite uprising of 1745. As the historian Michael Lynch comments: "Both the novelty and the half-baked appearance of the proto-British state led many in 1707 to believe they had embarked only on an experiment which might well be reversed."

And there, one trusts, any lingering similarity with 1997 comes to an end.

Hague tells Scots to beware of Blair trap

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE fought back last night against Tony Blair's devolution plans, saying that a Scottish parliament was a "dangerous trap" which would prise apart the United Kingdom.

In a speech to Conservative supporters in Glasgow, Mr Hague accused the Prime Minister of endangering Scotland's prosperity and preparing to hand power to Labour's "mob" north of the border. The Tory leader's two-day tour of Scotland had earlier been upstaged by Baroness Thatcher, who was visiting Glas-

gow. In his lengthy speech to a Conservative rally at the University of Strathclyde, Mr Hague accused the Labour leadership of "wrapping themselves in the salubrity and playing the playground bully" to win a double-yes vote in tomorrow's referendum. "This Government's campaign, using taxpayers' money, to portray opponents of a Scottish parliament as somehow less patriotic, or less Scottish, is a disgrace."

He ridiculed the Government's plan to give the parliament tax-varying powers and said it was nonsense for ministers to say that it would not raise taxes in its first few years. He illustrated the dangers of a different tax regime in Scotland with a tale caricaturing Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Mr Blair as travelling salesmen from Glasgow and Sedgfield. The Conservative leader said allegations of sleaze against Scottish Labour officials showed that the party was

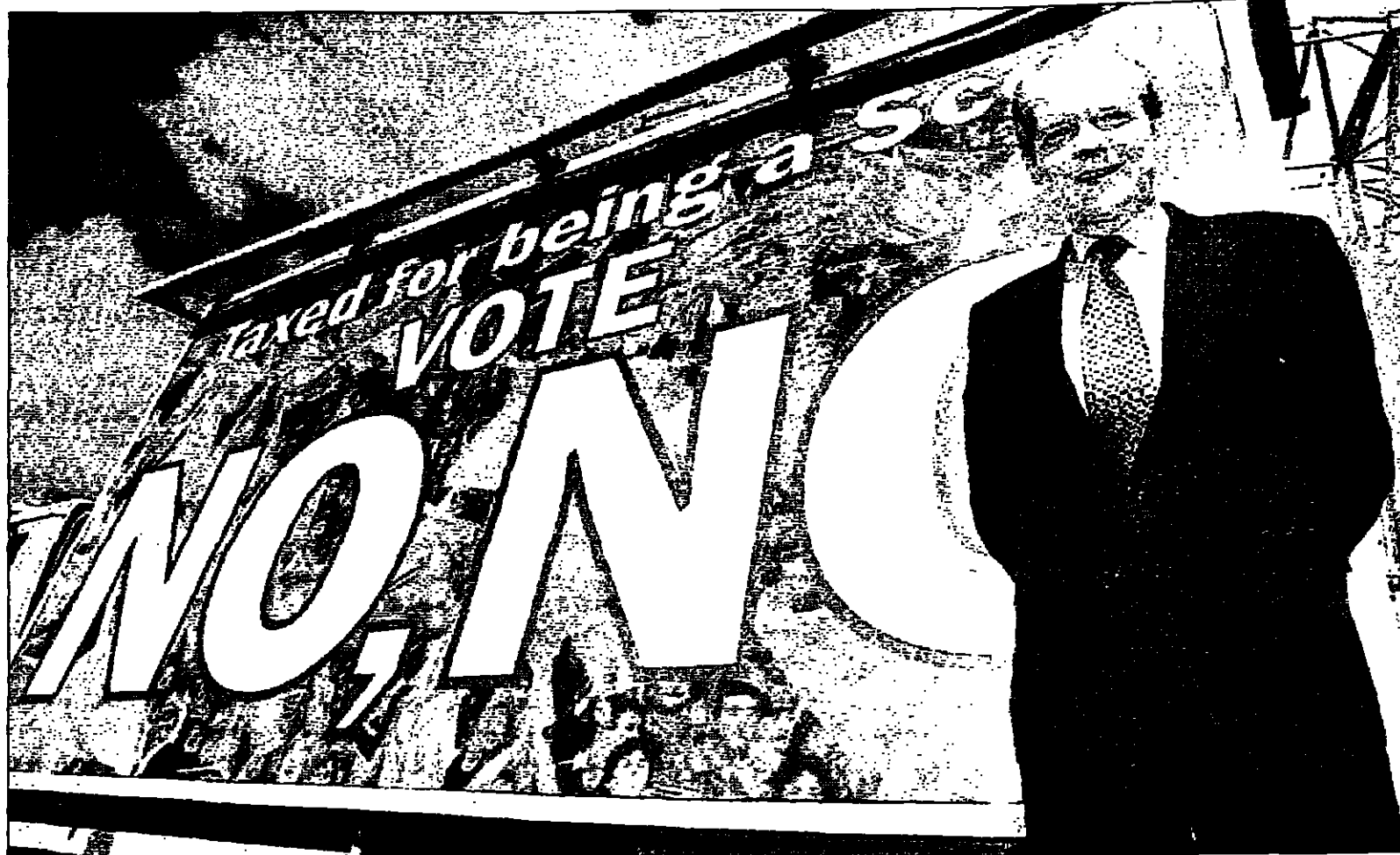
not fit to govern in Scotland: "We've learnt what a thoroughly nasty institution the Scottish Labour Party really is. Labour politics in the 1990s is beginning to look more like the city hall politics of Chicago in the 1920s, except it is not as polite and democratic. Can you believe that this is the mob that wants to stand for the Scottish parliament and run a devolved government?"

The Conservatives believe that they are in a strong position to damage the Government in the Scottish referendum. A senior party source in Scotland said that they could not influence the first decision — whether a parliament should be established — but they had a fighting chance of victory on the second question — whether the parliament should be given tax-varying powers.

Mr Hague's speech came at the end of a day of frenetic campaigning in Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Stirling and Glasgow. He had lunch with pupils at the Royal High School in Edinburgh, where he received a polite but unenthusiastic welcome. His reception on the streets of Linlithgow, where only a few pensioners turned out, was dismal compared with the crowds that were attracted by Mr Blair's visit on Monday.

Mr Hague praised Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, and a staunch opponent of devolution, for his "tireless work" to stop a Scottish parliament.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19



A poster gets Mr Hague's message across in Edinburgh yesterday. He said that Labour's pro-devolution campaign was a disgrace

Thatcher sails into storm after American travel agents' booking

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

BARONESS THATCHER breezed into Scotland yesterday and entered the devolution debate with gusto, upstaging the arrival of William Hague, the Conservative party leader.

As the Conservative and anti-devolution "Think Twice" group prepared to take its "no" campaign into top gear with the support of the Tory leader, Lady Thatcher stepped into the fray and threw their well-laid plans into disarray.

She had been invited to speak at the 67th world conference of the American Soci-

ety of Travel Agents in Glasgow and in the process pick up a five-figure cheque from American Express, rumoured to be £70,000. But her appearance in Scotland, amid tight security, at such a crucial stage in the devolution debate caused some embarrassment in the "no" camp, which had privately been advising her not to speak out on home rule. As architect of the poll tax, Lady Thatcher is believed to be still deeply unpopular in Scotland.

In an interview with *The Scotsman*, published ahead of Mr Hague's arrival yesterday morning, Lady Thatcher called on Scots to vote "no" tomorrow. The Government's devolution plans were a "negation of our shared history and our abidance of our joint future", she said. "Scots could do no greater service to their country than to reject them."

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said: "Just William arrives in Glasgow to find his headmistress is already there. She is the living memorial as to why Scots want their own parliament."



Lady Thatcher: highlight of one woman's week

ment. Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, campaigning in Dundee, said that Mr Hague had been upstaged by the haunting shadow of Lady Thatcher. "Together they will do as much for the 'yes' vote as our own supporters."

Yesterday, Lady Thatcher's agent said that the clash with Mr Hague was an unfortunate coincidence. The diary commitment was agreed more than a year ago, she said, adding that Lady

Thatcher's fee would probably be donated to her favourite charities.

Meanwhile the 5,000 travel delegates, mainly Americans, were surprised to find their conference thrust into the political spotlight. They had come to Glasgow to exchange business cards and to talk about staffing strategies, protecting world monuments and "selling satisfaction". Yesterday, they were being asked by journalists about their views on Lady Thatcher's intervention in Scotland's constitutional debate.

"She's such a gutsy lady. We need someone like her in the US," said an uncomprehending David Ranns, 54, from Stiles in Travel, California, brandishing a copy of *USA Today* which carried the headline Scotland Vote May Further Erode Empire.

Rather confused, he continued: "She's for this devolution thing, yeah? My dad was born in Wales. I believed that each country should have their own home rule."

It was not until 12.20pm that Lady Thatcher stepped on stage in the new Clyde Auditorium, known locally as the armadillo because of its

shape. She was given a standing ovation even before she uttered a word.

Following her brief, she spoke for 50 minutes about world affairs, about the handover of Hong Kong and terrorism in the Middle East. She confessed her admiration for Bette Davis and praised Yitzhak Rabin, whose widow Leah had addressed the conference the previous day. She defied expectations by never once mentioning Scotland or home rule.

Her only oblique reference came at the end, when she concluded: "We tend to think of democracy as the will of the majority, expressed in elections freely held. My friends, democracy is about more than that. A vote, a majority vote, won't make something that is fundamentally wrong right. It won't turn what is true into an untruth."

Afterwards, Bebe Hess, 75, from Houston, Texas, was ecstatic. "She is such a fabulously learned woman," she said, waiting outside the International Conference Centre to watch the baroness leave in her chauffeur-driven car. "She's been the highlight of my week."

Skirl of the pipes drowns out Tories

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The glee with which the supporters of devolution yesterday greeted the intervention of Margaret Thatcher on the opposition side shows how isolated and out of touch the Tories now appear to many in Scotland. The Tories — and the Think Twice campaign — have a case, and on his visit yesterday to Edinburgh and Glasgow, William Hague raised important questions that will not go away. But the Tories, for the moment, lack credibility in Scotland after their wipe-out on May 1.

The response in Scotland, at least of the media and centre-left politicians to Lady Thatcher's warning on the dangers of devolution was of celebration. *The Scotsman* accompanied her article with a commentary by Iain MacWhirter, its political columnist, and a leader both saying that her remarks were a gift to home-rule advocates.

Lady Thatcher was never popular in Scotland: she appeared too English and her distinctive free market rhetoric clashed with the collectivists attitudes of many north of the border. Above all, she was disliked because of the poll tax, which was ignominiously launched in Scotland a

year before the rest of the country.

Thatcherism, and Lady Thatcher herself, underlined the political distance between London and Edinburgh and helped to revive the flagging devolution cause from the late 1980s. So her remarks yesterday were being presented by the supporters of devolution as personifying their case. I think they exaggerate. Lady Thatcher may be a hate figure to many in Scotland but she is still admired by a minority and she may have persuaded some among the hard core of Tories to go to the polls tomorrow.

But her remarks, and her visit to Glasgow, did not please the opponents of devolution, not least because they overshadowed the delayed visit by Mr Hague. As always, the Tory leader was affable and fluent in his appearances but he somehow seemed irrelevant. He struggled to excite some pupils at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. But their thoughts may have been more on lunch than the West Lothian question. Mr Hague's case



An SNP piper plays at the border yesterday

was being rushed; that if the Labour leaders were not going to use the tax-varying powers, why have them at all; and that the proposals would weaken rather than strengthen accountability. So his message was: "Look before you leap."

Both Mr Hague and the Think Twice campaign are

batting against an apparently decided and unshiftable public mood. A majority of the Scottish public wants a devolved parliament and probably also backs tax-varying powers (as did the pupils of the Royal High School by a similar margin to recent polls). Of course, there are many unresolved questions which Mr Hague raised but

the public seems to be saying that these are for the future. The public face of the Think Twice campaign is unconvincing — the only Tory MPs are those who have lost their seats in Scotland and returned to the Commons as English MPs, like Michael Ancram, or defeated MPs who have become peers, like Peter Fraser.

In the short term, there is little the Tories can do. Their rout on May 1 leaves them on the margins for the time being — Cassandras without a single constituency to their name.

The time for a counterattack will be later, in the elections for the Scottish parliament in 1999. Thanks to the proposals for a proportional system of election, the Tories should gain a sizeable presence in the new parliament. Meanwhile, all they can do is go through the motions in the referendum and repeat their warnings. The Scottish public is not yet ready to listen to the Tories. They are battling against the spirit of the times in Scotland at present.

PETER RIDDELL

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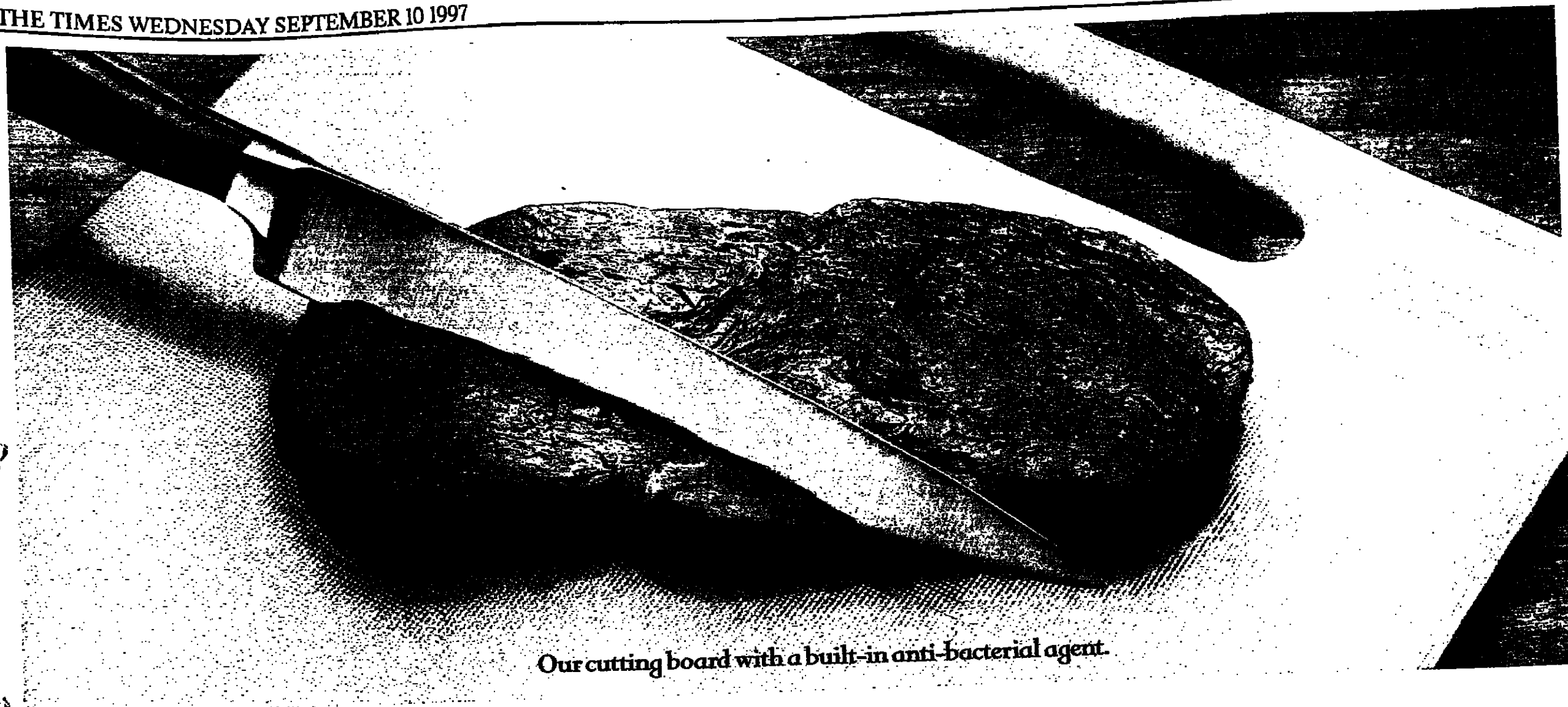
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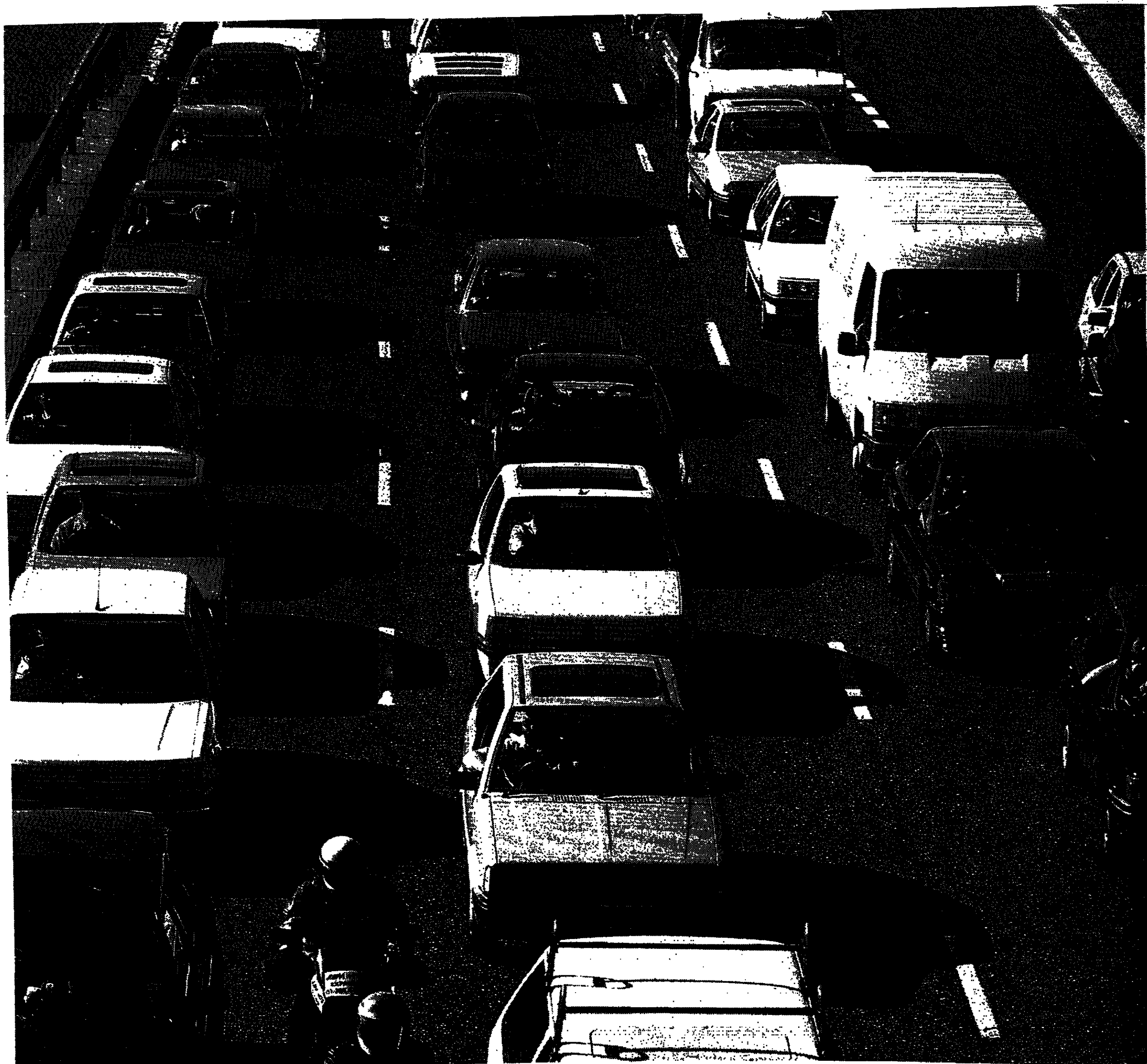
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Poison reveal

Farmers seek compensation

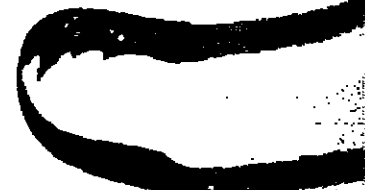
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The floods on the Somerset Levels last month. They have created a wasteland as the water turned toxic in the heatwave that followed

Poison floods recede to reveal lifeless landscape

Farmers seek compensation amid fears for the environment, writes Simon de Bruxelles

BLACK pools of evil-smelling water still disfigure one of Britain's most fragile landscapes, five weeks after the worst summer floods for 30 years.

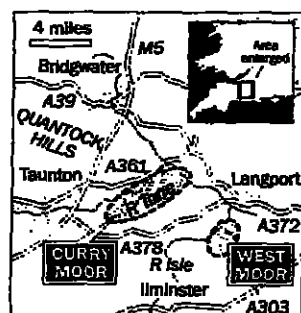
The extent of the disaster which hit parts of the Somerset Levels, the country's most important and heavily protected expanse of low-lying grassland, is only now becoming clear as the waters recede.

Thousands of acres of meadows, rich in wildlife, have been transformed into a sea of mud in which not a living thing remains. Scores of small farmers in the two areas worst affected face economic hardship. Environmentalists fear that rare plants, animals and insects found nowhere else in Britain will take years to recover on the Levels, which were once impenetrable marshland stretching from

the Bristol Channel almost to the Wiltshire borders. By the 19th century an intricate network of drainage ditches had turned much of them into prime agricultural land.

Disaster struck at the beginning of August when four days of torrential rain was swiftly followed by a heatwave. The warm weather caused the lush vegetation to rot, turning the floodwaters into a toxic soup so lethal to wildlife that it could not be pumped into the many rivers flowing through the region without killing everything in them.

The Environment Agency, which was responsible for clearing up the mess, took the controversial decision to wait before draining an estimated 50 million gallons of flood water from the fields. Two weeks ago it began the task of treating the water with exact



quantities of hydrogen peroxide to return its oxygen levels to normal before pumping it back into the rivers.

Tens of thousands of fish died in the two areas worst affected, Curry Moor, east of Taunton, and West Moor, south of Langport. Their bodies littered the fields adding to the general smell.

Larger creatures such as otters, which have lost their

main supply of food, and birds that live off insects have been forced to forage elsewhere, according to Michael Woodhouse, Somerset team leader for English Nature. He said: "We won't be able to gauge the full impact of the damage until spring. Curry Moor is not so badly damaged. What it needs is some heavy autumn rain to flush the black water out of the ditches. West Moor is giving more cause for concern, although I am optimistic that the plants and invertebrates will recolonise, given time."

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, who visited the worst-affected areas yesterday, is expected to add to calls for extra flood defences and compensation for the worst-hit farmers. Many farmers will claim that the Environment Agency was at fault for not

pumping the water off their land before the grass began to rot. They are also angry because the pumps that were turned on quickly became clogged, a problem they believe should have been foreseen.

Julian Temperley, a farmer from Kingsbury Episcopi, who believes he has lost a dozen sheep that drank contaminated water, said: "Between them, 30 farmers own 500 acres of West Moor. These are not corn barons and the long-term effect of this natural disaster will be serious hardship."

"The days have long gone when a farmer could hold out his hand and a cheque would be placed in it, but there has to be some degree of co-operation between the farmers and agencies and so far there has been none."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdered woman's handbag discovered

The handbag of Rachel Barracough was found yesterday in undergrowth three quarters of a mile from where the teenager's body was discovered on Sunday. Nothing had been taken from the bag, ruling out robbery as a motive for the attack.

Miss Barracough, 18, was stabbed to death at Heath Common, near Wakefield. She was not sexually assaulted and police believe that she probably knew the killer. She had travelled from her home in Bradford, where she lived with her parents, to visit a nightclub in Wakefield with friends.

Husband bailed

Gordon Park, charged with the murder of his former wife Carol, whose body was found in Coniston Water, was released on bail yesterday on condition he lives at an address in Manchester, observes a 10pm-7am curfew and reports to police twice a week.

NVQs pass test

Companies are at last showing enthusiasm for National Vocational Qualifications, the work-based study schemes. A study by the Confederation of British Industry of 40 companies showed "overwhelming support" for NVQs, introduced in 1988.

Fireman banned

A fireman who crashed his engine on the way to a 999 call was yesterday banned from driving. Teddy Thomson, 40, who was injured in the accident, pleaded guilty to recklessly driving the vehicle at 50mph in a 40mph zone on the Aberdeen ring road.

Stowaways held

Two Sri Lankan stowaways are being questioned by immigration officers after they were seen in difficulties in the Solent at Southampton. They jumped over the side of a container ship moored in the harbour and were rescued by two fishermen.

In the doghouse

A policeman called to a shop after a stray Labrador walked in and began eating dog biscuits found the animal was his own pet. The dog had slipped out of PC Bill De Gauraz's house in Oundle, Northamptonshire, while the front door was being painted.

One last port

A British tourist in Ibiza woke up on a fishing boat bound for mainland Spain after drinking with friends. Neil Hyslop, 22, a lorry driver, helped the crew until he landed on the Costa Blanca, where police decided he had committed no offence.

Country life is not so sweet for townies

By IAN MURRAY

THE pungent smells of the countryside are getting up the nose of city-dwellers who move out to live in what they believe will be a quiet rural setting. They are bombarding environmental health officers with complaints about natural farmyard smells.

The number who rang their local authority to protest about "agricultural odours" last year rose by 19 per cent to 9,005, according to a report issued yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Simon Wil-

liams, its spokesman, said: "It would appear that when people move from urban areas, they have ideas that country is clean and noiseless. But this idea is rapidly put to rest by farmyard smells, the noise of farm machinery and cockerels crowing. These people do not realise that the country can be as noisy and smelly as towns."

Tegwyn Jones, environmental health manager for South Somerset District Council, said: "It's wrong to expect to live in the country and expect it to be odour free. People have to realise that when you live in the country you are

surrounded by a modern agricultural industry."

He believes that smells on farms have become fouler in past few years because farming has become more intensive. "The pig and poultry farms are getting smellier," he said.

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union said: "We feel everyone in the countryside has to learn to co-operate and live together. We believe the influx in people from towns to the country has contributed to the rise in complaints. Part of that is not being accustomed to farmyard smells."

He said union members were usually not doing anything wrong. "Out of the 9,000 complaints last year there were just two prosecutions and 60 cases of notices served to clear up the cause of the nuisance. To avoid trouble in future we urge our members to follow our code of good practice, such as disposing of manure downwind."

Under environmental health legislation farmers are expected to do everything practical to eliminate smells but if they persist at an unreasonable level they can be prosecuted.

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Dieting makes you dimmer, if not slimmer

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DIETERS use up so much brainpower thinking about food that their working memory capacity shrinks, according to psychologists. The researchers found that a desire to eat created a form of anxiety that made it difficult to complete tasks efficiently.

Earlier research has shown that worry about weight and eating can be counterproductive and that dieting may lead to psychological problems, manifested in an increase in alcohol consumption, laxative abuse or vomiting.

Tests have also shown that crash dieters do not perform tasks as well as those who habitually restrict food intake to maintain their weight.

After a series of tests on 69 women undergraduates aged 18 to 35, psychologists from the Institute of Food Research at Reading concluded that the mental rather than the physical stress of dieting was responsible for poor performance by those trying to lose weight.

"Dieting to lose weight is associated with an increase in thoughts about food, urges to

eat and a general preoccupation with food-related cognitions," the researchers write in the *British Journal of Health Psychology* published today. The researchers concentrated on women because they consider that dieting "is an activity which for many women can become a major preoccupation". That was true of only a few men.

The women were divided into three groups: dieters, those who habitually restricted their food intake and those who ate what they liked. A series of questions discovered that those on diets were found to be up to five times more anxious to eat and nearly twice as hungry as those who restricted their intake.

In memory tests the dieters came out consistently worse than the others, even though they showed a similar ability to concentrate. There was no evidence that the dieters were less motivated to perform well. The study concludes that thoughts about food and a greater desire to eat probably reduces the capacity of the memory.

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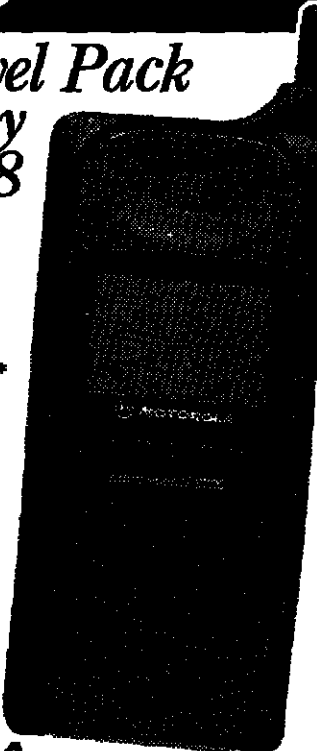
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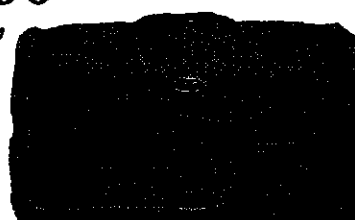
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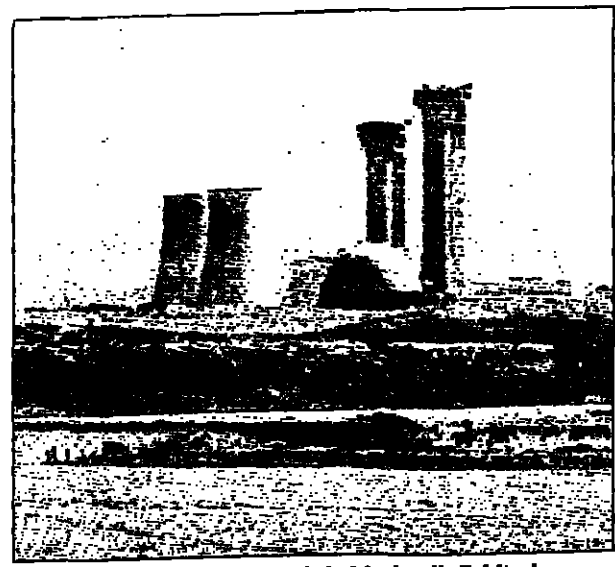
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Robots will dismantle debris from Windscale fire



The damaged Pile 1 stands behind Sellafield's dome

WORK to dismantle the damaged atomic reactor responsible for the Windscale fire in 1957 will take eight years and cost £54 million.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority announced the appointment yesterday of a consortium led by BNFL to remove, process and store fuel rods sealed inside Windscale Pile 1 and its 400ft chimney, which spewed a plume of radioactive iodine across Cumbria.

The fire on October 10, 1957, at Windscale Atomic Works, since renamed Sellafield, remains Britain's worst nuclear accident and in world terms second only to the meltdown at Chernobyl. It started when the fuel rods overheated. Emergency services tried to cool the fire with water, releasing large amounts of radioactive steam and smoke in a southwesterly direction from the Cumbrian coast. Although

Russell Jenkins reports on the launching of an eight-year project to uncover Sellafield's entombed nuclear fuel rods at a cost of £54m

the plume of smoke could be seen from miles away, the people of nearby Seascale were not warned of the dangers from nuclear fallout for more than a day.

The authorities swiftly reassured residents and farmers that there was nothing to be alarmed about and that the cloud had blown harmlessly out to sea. However, milk from the surrounding area was tested to be six times the legal limit for radio-iodine and its sale was banned.

Residents, believed to have been subjected to many times the acceptable limit of radioactivity, have blamed dozens of deaths from leukaemia, bone marrow and

thyroid cancers on the fire. Windscale Pile 1, now encased in a corrugated iron shell, was a primitive air-cooled graphite reactor, turning uranium bars into weapons-grade plutonium for Britain's early atomic bomb programme. Up to 15 tonnes of nuclear fuel cartridges are estimated to be trapped inside the core. Experts are unsure how damaged it is.

The reactor was mothballed for care and maintenance but the concrete shield has grown increasingly unstable with age. The contract, which comes 11 years after plans were first mooted, was officially signed in front of press photographers assembled on the

top of the pile cap. They were standing on 2,000 tonnes of machined graphite blocks assembled in a hexagonal stack, 50ft in diameter and 25ft long, surrounded by a biological shield of 7ft-thick reinforced concrete.

The consortium, led by BNFL and aided by Nukem and Rolls-Royce Nuclear Engineering Services, will envelope the core in inert argon gas to prevent any threat of fire. Four robotic arms called heavy-duty manipulators, driven into the core at each corner, will be used to remove the fuel. Workers will operate the arms remotely, guided by television monitors, to place radioactive waste into skips.

Preparatory work to isolate the bio-shield, provide a filtered ventilation system and decontaminate the surroundings has been going on for four years. Remote-control robots, like those used for bomb disposal, have cleared broken fuel rods from air ducts. "Swimming" robots have retrieved material from water ducts.

Barry Hickey, head of decommissioning at Sellafield, gave an assurance that the work, which will create up to 200 jobs, is safe. He said it would be monitored and approved at every stage by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

He said that the original accident and the response of the authorities should be viewed in the context of the time, when Britain was anxious to play a role in the Cold War as a nuclear power. "There were a lot of valuable lessons learnt and they were put into effect," he said.

The stereotypes that make scientists mad

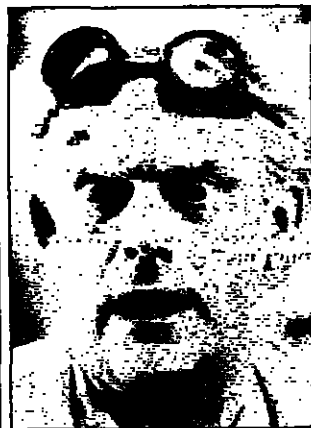
By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES
AND NICK TUTTALL



Maddening scientists: Dr Strangelove, Mr Spock, Back to the Future and Honey, I Shrunk the Kids



MR SPOCK, the ice-cold rationalist of the starship Enterprise, is doing a disservice to science. Star Trek's pointy-eared problem-solver portrays a dangerous stereotype of the scientist as an emotionless half-human, without a moral sense, a psychologist told the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Spock is dangerous because he elevates the cult of the rational and dismisses the role of emotion," Helen Haste, of the University of Bath, said. "Real scientists don't lack emotion, nor are they detached from normal human values. The danger is that this stereotype is very off-putting, especially to young people."

Spock is not alone: writers and directors employ stereotypes for almost every scientist on film and television. Mr Spock and Dr Strangelove are brothers under the skin.

Dr Haste has identified popular stereotypes, all inimical to a proper understanding of science. She said that the mad scientist, an evil usurper of God's power, goes back to Faust and found his most enduring expression as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.

The hero scientist, prominent in Jules Verne and Conan Doyle, and more recently encapsulated by Indiana Jones, is an adventurer in the physical and intellectual world, equipped with courage, determination and open-minded rationality. Many scientists are content with this stereotype but Dr Haste is not: "It implies that science is the saviour, all-powerful to put things right. That raises expectations that cannot be met."

The absent-minded profes-

sor makes mistakes through over-enthusiasm but eventually redeems the situation. The Back to the Future film series and Honey, I Shrunk the Kids are recent examples of the genre, which requires the protagonist to be a classic nerd whose good intentions are not

matched by a fully developed realisation of their moral implications.

Two further categories are the helpless scientist, well-intentioned but the victim of malevolent governments or situations beyond his control, and the scientist as an idealist,

much employed in the novels of H. G. Wells.

"What we need are ordinary scientists in television and films," Dr Haste told the association's annual meeting in Leeds. "Scientists are wonderfully ordinary people, with the same values and instincts as everybody else."

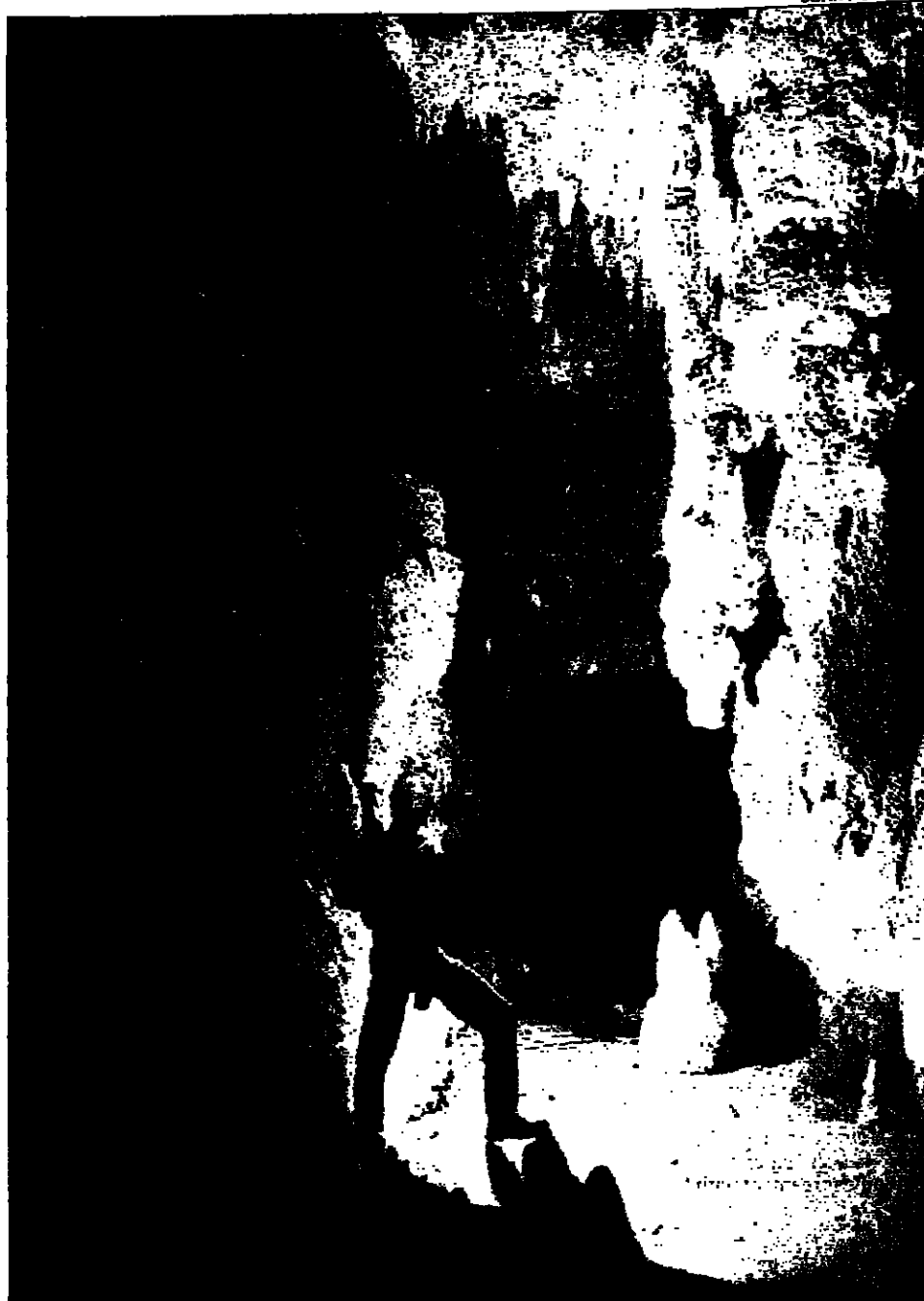
She stopped short of recommending that a scientist become part of the cast of Eastenders but said there was no reason why soap opera characters should not discuss scientific issues in a down-to-earth way, rather than the polarised "miracle or threat" that passes for debate when scientific developments are discussed.

Dr Haste acknowledged that the stereotypes would be hard to stop and carried "emotional and moral baggage" that reflected deep anxieties about science and the people who became scientists.

If the public understanding of science was to be improved, she said, those concerns, and their cultural origins, had to be understood. "You can't deal with malaria by haranguing the mosquitoes," she said. "If we are to correct misperceptions about science, we have first to understand them."

"We need to normalise science," she said. "The cultural images polarise the evil and ineffectual, and the heroic idealists. We cannot, and probably should not, try to minimise concerns about unintended consequences of science and technology but we can find ways of taking responsibility for both their causes and their remedies and recognise that science cannot take place outside its social and cultural context."

Leading article, page 19



The Majorca cave that was about to be used as a sewage sump for an hotel

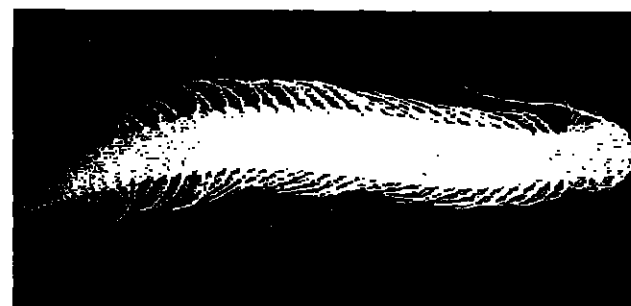
New species found in holiday island cave

A FLOODED cave discovered by accident on Majorca contains many species new to science, the association meeting was told.

Professor Geoff Boxshall, of the Natural History Museum, said that the cave was festooned with the richest array of stalagmites and stalactites he has ever seen. "Yet it was discovered by workmen who were digging a sump into which they were going to pump, untreated, the sewage and waste water from a new hotel."

The threat has been averted, he hopes, but he is still sworn to secrecy over the cave's exact location. It is in the south-eastern corner of the island, near the resort of Cala d'Or. He told the meeting that he recently spent eight hours swimming through the cave, which was like "a forest of stalagmites" with caverns as high as 60ft and extending for several kilometres beneath hotels and holiday villas near Cala Pi.

Working with a Spanish colleague, Dr Damià Jaume, he set bait traps in the cave and caught a range of new species of crustaceans. The



One of the unclassified creatures found in the cave

caves, which are not directly connected to the sea, are filled with water that feeds through rock fissures.

The creatures collected include a new species of freshwater shrimp, which lives in the deepest recesses of the cave, where the water is brackish rather than salt, and several species of copepods, smaller shrimps known as the "insects of the sea" and about the size of a grain of rice.

The creatures are blind — sight would be of little use to them because the caves are dark — and they find their food by homing in on chemical signals. They have enlarged antennae to enable them to

detect the molecules diffusing through the water that indicate the whereabouts of food.

The cave was discovered about a year ago and legal moves, to give it protected status, are almost completed. Professor Boxshall said. To convince Spanish government officials of its value, one was persuaded to take a swim through the cave.

Majorca is not the only holiday island with caves full of unique species, he said. In the Canaries, Bermuda and the Bahamas similar caves have been explored and all have species never before identified. All are under potential threat because of holiday development.

The heavy price of mobile phones

THE mobile phone has saved the average user ten miles of walking a year, an obesity expert said yesterday.

It may not sound like much, but combined with other aspects of lazy modern living, the mobile phone is helping to fuel an explosion of obesity, according to Dr Andrew Prentice of the Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre.

Television remote controls, computers, escalators, lifts and power steering in cars were other examples of technology contributing to the paradox that although people ate less than in the past, they were getting fatter.

Bad diet alone could not explain the rise in obesity, Dr Prentice said. During the 20th century the average weight of adults in Britain had increased by almost 10 kg (22 lb) and the number of clinically obese people had more than doubled since 1980.

High fat consumption was partly to blame but the problem could largely be put down to labour-saving devices, Dr Prentice told the association.

Satellites in water hunt

Satellites are coming to the aid of the Bedouin tribesmen. Researchers are using satellite images to detect areas of desert rich in moisture.

Each winter the Bedouin of Jordan and their animals cross the desert in search of food. Kevin Tansey, of Leicester University, said scientists were looking to see if images from the European Space Agency's remote sensing satellites can help.

He is devising a computer prediction system able to advise the Bedouin on areas, after rainfalls, with moisture levels to produce feed plants. Portable satellite dishes could then relay the information to the tribesmen.

New clue to climate

Climate changes in the past 15,000 years are reflected in fossilised midges, a study of two lakes in Scotland shows. Changes to the size and composition of the midge population have disclosed occasions when average summer temperatures changed markedly in a short space of time. Today, such changes could devastate agriculture and affect water supplies. Fossilised midge larvae held in sediments at Whittier Bog and Lochan Uaine were studied.

Dr Steve Brooks, of the Natural History Museum, addressing the British Association, said the results would be used to improve forecasts of climate change.

Snow 'gives science a bad name'

THE legacy of C. P. Snow and his "ignorant certainty" about the existence of two cultures — one scientific, the other artistic — dogs the intellectual life of Britain, a historian of science told the meeting.

Snow had disproved his own theory by continuing to be taken seriously, a testimony to the importance of science in British culture, said David Edgerton, director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at Imperial College, London.

He said Snow's controversial lecture, *Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*, was still in print 38 years after it was delivered, and the writer was still widely cited in academic journals. "Snow is still



C.P. Snow

the first reference point for popular discussion of science in Britain," Dr Edgerton said. Yet Snow, who died in 1980 at the age of 74, had been profoundly wrong, Dr Edgerton said.

He had disproved the theory himself, being a man renowned as both a novelist and a physicist as well as a senior civil servant, and had given no evidence for the claims he made. Snow ignored the fact that by 1959, when he gave the lecture, more students in Britain were studying science and technology than arts and social sciences.

Britain was not deficient in graduates in engineering and science compared with France and Germany. Also, Snow's portrayal of 19th-century science as a northern artistry despised by the "cultured" south had ignored swaths of engineers and scientists including Charles Babbage and Michael Faraday.

"Snow has no explanation

for the rise of British science only for its failure to exist," Dr Edgerton said. "We should take Snow not as a guide to the problem, but as an exemplary of the poverty of commentary on science in 20th-century Britain."

Snow, he said, "is a good example of the decline of whingeing about traditional British culture which remains very popular among scientists and engineers". But fresh there was growing recognition that complaining about the state of science and engineering was not helping to attract students or recognition.

"For science and technology, Snow is part of the problem, not the solution," Dr Edgerton concluded.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

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Mubarak warns Netanyahu of alienated Arabs rallying to Iran

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE gravity of the security crisis facing Madeleine Albright in the Middle East was highlighted yesterday in two personal messages to Prime Minister Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, from President Mubarak of Egypt, one warning that the peace process is "going down the drain".

According to *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv newspaper, the first part of the diplomatic broadcast was an angry seven-page letter; the second,

delivered through an unnamed intermediary this week, gave a verbal warning about the dangers that lie ahead in the region.

The American Secretary of State, who arrives in the region today, is due to visit Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and will concentrate on trying to rescue the deadlocked peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Sources quoted Mr Mubarak as asking Mr Netanyahu in the verbal message: "What will happen in the Arab world if there is a feeling that

Iran is becoming more moderate as a result of the election of [President Mohammad] Khatami in contrast to Israel where there is a feeling of growing extremism? The result could be a trend of co-operation with Iran. Can Egypt stop this trend without a peace process?"

Mr Mubarak, regarded as one of the more moderate Arab leaders, added that if "there was no movement towards peace in the coming months, it could cause a strategic change in the Middle East with negative results for all moderate

forces." The Egyptian leader, a noted opponent of Muslim extremists, said: "All that was built by the last Israeli Government is going down the drain."

The current deadlock in the peace talks began in March when Israel started building a settlement for 32,000 Jews in annexed east Jerusalem. The situation has deteriorated with five suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem since July 30 in which 20 Israelis have been killed and scores more injured.

Haaretz said the verbal message

came after a "stinging" letter from Mr Mubarak last week in which he chided the Israeli leader over the case of Azam Azam, an Israeli Druze convicted this month in Cairo of spying for Israel. Mr Netanyahu denied that he was a spy and publicly described the verdict and the 15-year sentence as "twisted". He urged Mr Mubarak to pardon the Druze.

"One citizen cannot ignore 62 million citizens," Mr Mubarak told the Israeli leader with a sharpness that reflects the deep gulf existing

between Israel and Egypt. "You are not the only one who has a domestic public opinion."

Mr Mubarak also referred to an incident, not previously disclosed, in which an Israeli businessman suspected of spying was secretly deported from Egypt. This occurred three months before the arrest of Azam last year on the eve of a crucial Israeli-Arab economic conference.

The Egyptian leader, regarded by America as the main Arab conduit for keeping the peace

process alive, criticised Mr Netanyahu's office for using the Azam verdict as a basis on which to condemn the Egyptian legal system. Mr Mubarak also criticised David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's communications director.

Yesterday, Mr Bar-Ilan said he had no information about the message quoted by *Haaretz*, but confirmed that a letter from Mr Mubarak had been delivered to the Prime Minister. "I have not seen [it] and we do not usually comment on private messages," he said.

Israeli overture to Syria on eve of Albright visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN AN attempt to break the deadlock between Israel and Syria, a senior adviser to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, held "secret talks" in Europe in advance of today's arrival of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, on a peace mission.

Israel Radio said the talks were focused on resuming peace talks which collapsed when Mr Netanyahu won the May 1996 election. The radio named the adviser as Uzi Arad, an expert on Arab affairs, but did not identify in which country or with whom the discussions were held.

During Ms Albright's shuttle mission — her first to the region since taking office eight months ago — she is due to visit Syria, Jordan, Israel and the autonomous Palestinian areas.

News of the secret talks came as Ehud Barak, the opposition Labour leader and a former chief of staff, was predicting the outbreak of a new war with Syria unless peace was achieved. Damascus has accused Mr Netanyahu's Government of backtracking on what it said were promises by the previous Labour administration to withdraw from the whole of the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace.

Earlier yesterday, *Yediot Aharanot* the Tel Aviv newspaper, revealed that in the past few days Israel had

passed secret messages to Syria about Israel's alleged readiness to discuss new ideas for a renewal of negotiations. An official in the Prime Minister's office told *Yediot* that if his government partners found out how far he was willing to go, the coalition would collapse.

According to the official, Mr Netanyahu authorised civil servants to inform the Syrians that he would be prepared to adopt the formula once put forward by the late Yitzhak Rabin linking the extent of withdrawal from the Golan Heights with the depth of peace with Syria.

Yediot added: "The Prime Minister denied the claim. But the most right-wing sources close to him confirmed in the past few days that the messages passed to Syria recently were meant to bring about a breakthrough in the stalemate with Syria."

According to American sources, Ms Albright will use her visit to make a serious effort to revive the Israeli-Syrian talks in the hope that President Assad and Mr Netanyahu are, for their own different reasons, "almost desperate" to resume the negotiations broken off early last year. Since the collapse there have been repeated war scares as a result of Syrian troop movements in Lebanon. Senior Israeli officials believe that any agreement with Syria could help Israel withdraw its

troops from Lebanon. This costly involvement is becoming increasingly unpopular.

For the Americans, even mild progress on the Syrian front could help to divert attention from the enormous difficulties facing Ms Albright in building trust between Israel and the Palestinians, whose peace negotiations have been dormant since March when Israel began building a huge new Jewish settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem.

Yesterday, Israel and the Palestinian Authority continued to blame each other for the crisis in peace-making which, according to a Jordanian newspaper, prompted Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to threaten to resign at the weekend. He was dissuaded by King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt. Both are deeply critical of Israeli policy.

Israel yesterday demanded that Ms Albright persuade Mr Arafat to crush the Islamic groups operating in the West Bank and Gaza areas under his control. It dismissed the Palestinian police round-up of 35 militants as insufficient. Mr Netanyahu's office also issued a list of ten security demands which it said Mr Arafat had to fulfil to ensure "the integrity of the peace process".

Ms Albright is due to meet Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat separately and to visit victims of the five recent suicide attacks in Jerusalem.



A Latin inscription on a mosaic in Caesarea which reads: "Adiviorib offici custodiari" (I came to this office — I shall be secure)

Archaeologists uncover site of St Paul's prison

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAELI archaeologists believe they have uncovered a Roman complex where they believe St Paul was held in detention almost 2,000 years ago.

The discovery was made in the Mediterranean coastal village of Caesarea on the site of Strato's tower, an ancient anchorage. The fortified town served traders plying between Phoenicia and Egypt. A fortified town gradually developed which changed hand many times before being given to Herod the Great by the Emperor Augustus in 30 BC. The complex includes a palace, offices, a bathhouse and courtyards. "The praetorium complex served as the

seat of Roman government in the Province of Judea, later renamed Palestine, from the start of the 1st century AD until the middle of the 3rd century," said Yosef Porath, who is in charge of operations by the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

He said that archaeologists had unearthed a mosaic bearing a Latin inscription suggesting that one office had served as a governmental bureau responsible for internal security. Mr Porath added: "This inscription helps to solve the problem of where the hearing of St Paul before the Roman Governor, took place. It has tremendous importance for Christian pilgrims."

The Apostle Paul was born

Saul of Tarsus. He was imprisoned in Herod's praetorium in Caesarea from AD 58 to 60 until, as a Roman citizen, he appealed to the Roman Governor against being handed over to opponents in Jerusalem who had accused him of preaching against Mosaic law. "I stand

at Caesar's judgment seat where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong as thou very well knowest," Paul said in Acts 25:10. "For if I be an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die. But if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them."

He was taken to Rome for trial and eventually killed during Nero's persecution of the Christians. Mr Porath said that experts believed that the hearing room lay in the part of the compound still to be excavated. Mr Porath added that the complex was the only seat of Roman government to be unearthed in Israel.



Clinton finds unions riding high and ready for battle

THE unions are back. As President Clinton goes into battle with Congress this morning over trade, it is organised labour, not the Republicans, who are his real foes.

Suddenly, after decades of decline, the unions are everywhere. San Francisco yesterday, hit by a transport strike, saw queues a mile long for the lone ferry struggling across the bay. Ohio's teachers have walked out. Above all, the Teamsters' Union, whose reach spans the nation, now believes it is riding high after its greatest triumph for years: the 15-day United Parcel Service strike by 185,000 workers, the biggest in the nation for 14 years, which won new rights for part-time workers.

Ron Carey, the Teamsters' president, called it an "historic turning point for working people". Whether that is true depends on how he plays his startlingly good hand of cards on Capitol Hill.

To the amazement of White House aides, the unions face them at every twist and turn of the next six weeks' packed

AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

legislative season. On trade, Mr Clinton wants a renewal of "fast-track" authority, the power to put trade agreements to Congress for a quick vote, without amendment. Without it, foreign governments will not bother even to discuss trade pacts, he argues. Many Republicans agree, but trade unions, fearing a loss of jobs overseas, are determined to block it.

In a similar spirit, unions hope to scupper a Bill to reform Amtrak, the tottering rail network. Nor do they like plans to reform campaign fi-

nance, which would stop them throwing their financial muscle — \$35 million (£22 million) in last year's elections — behind their chosen candidates. This autumn, the only ordeal of Mr Clinton's in which they have not emerged as central players is the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Why this show of strength now? In one sense, the unions have never been weaker, a shadow of their might in the 1930s and 1940s. Just 14.5 per cent of the workforce belongs to a union and much of that comes from the public sector.

But the booming economy has pushed unemployment down to 4.8 per cent. Until this year, workers have appeared fearful of demanding higher wages; a decade of redundancies has left its mark. But now labour shortages are pushing up pay. On September 1, the Labour Day holiday, unions received a longed-for concession, when the minimum wage rose by 40 cents to \$5.15.

The AFL-CIO, the umbrella organisation for unions, hopes to reverse its falling member-

ship rolls. John Sweeney, the president, aims at "a modest growth of 2 or 3 per cent a year" by scooping up those pushed off welfare rolls into low-pay jobs, female part-time workers and Californian strawberry pickers.

As a result, politicians are running scared. In New York, the decision by unions to back Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican Mayor, shocked Democrats who assumed that they had an eternal lock on the union vote. On the national stage, Vice-President Al Gore and Richard Gephardt, who are battling for the Democratic candidacy in the 2000 presidential race, are tripping over themselves to court organised labour.

It often suits American politicians to portray Britain and the rest of Europe as a union haven, a fortress of workers' rights and welfare. But the careful arm's length that Tony Blair has put between himself and the unions almost seems to give him more leeway to ignore their views than his US counterparts enjoy.

TUC reports, page 26

Greens outraged by widow's plots

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A WEALTHY widow, often described as the most beautiful septuagenarian in America, has enraged Green groups by a plan to divide 15,000 acres of private forest in the Adirondacks, the vast parkland in the northeast of New York state, into 40 plots for sale.

Marylou Whitney, 71, is one of America's richest women. The widow of Cornelius Vanderbilt ("Sonny") Whitney, who founded Pan American Airways and also paid for making the film *Gone with the Wind*, she announced her engagement recently to a burly 32-year-old called John Hendrickson.

Earlier this year Mrs Whitney and her paramour decided to sell the 15,000-acre tract in the Adirondacks, forested

with spruce, pine, hemlock and an attractive gamut of deciduous trees. Mr Hendrickson took charge of the project. Although an asking price for the land has never been announced, *The Times Union*, a newspaper in Albany, the state capital, reported in July that Mr Hendrickson would entertain offers in the range of \$28.5 million (£18 million) to \$84.8 million for the entire tract.

George Pataki, the Governor of New York state, moved swiftly to buy the land and add it to the state-owned natural park alongside it. His \$14 million offer, however, earned only derision from Mr Hendrickson.

The Whitney camp entered a pre-contractual agreement with a couple from Connecticut for the sale of a 55-acre lakeside plot called Camp Bliss. They also outlined

plans to build a hotel, general store, restaurant and clubhouse on the tract. This made the Greens see red, and set off environmental alarms.

Since Mr Hendrickson showed no sign of climbing down, a non-profit Green group called Nature Conservancy stepped in, offering to buy the land at a higher price than the state and then to resell it to the state for \$14 million — Mr Pataki's original offer. It is reported that the group has offered \$21 million. That, too, has been rejected.

But the Connecticut couple have accepted \$75,000 from Nature Conservancy for withdrawing their offer for the Camp Bliss plot — and Mrs Whitney has been paid \$500,000 for the aborted deal. The Whitney camp has also agreed to make no more sales until January 1998.

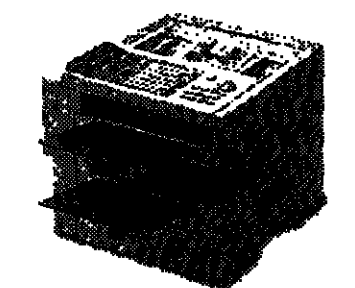


Whitney: one of richest women in America



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Victim of Mao tipped for China leadership post

THE Chinese Communist Party has been unable to suppress signals that the next Prime Minister will be Zhu Rongji, despite traditional attempts to maintain secrecy before the party congress.

Mr Zhu is currently vice-premier in charge of economic reform and is widely seen as the man behind China's successful negotiation out of a period of high inflation while avoiding serious disruption. For many years, starting in the late 1950s, Mr Zhu was in political disgrace and often languished in detention. Few of China's other current leaders were victims of Maoism.

The Central Committee is also said to have decided to cut the number of state-owned enterprises from 13,000 to 3,000, which would reduce the state's stake in the industrial economy from 40 to 20 per cent. There are at least 700,000 workers in state firms and many central officials fear an increase in already troublesome industrial unrest if many are sacked. But the state industries are heavy money-loosers.

Apart from the premiership, other top leadership positions are in dispute. The 15th Congress of the Central Committee, opening on Friday, will begin to ratify top leadership positions for the next five years. Already there are leaks of a row which has begun about the future of two of the central figures in the supreme Standing Committee of the Politburo.

Li Peng, due to retire as Prime Minister, is favoured by President Jiang Zemin for chairman of the National People's Congress. But this position is already held by Qiao Guohua, another grandee who is also said to be in overall charge of state security. Mr Jiang, eager to avoid a serious split, may try to persuade Mr Li to accept the chairmanship of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the leading organ for fighting official corruption, which most Chinese regard as the primary national challenge. Mr Li is said to prefer the title of State President. Mr Jiang,

Congress is set to reform state economics, write Jonathan Mirsky and James Pringle

however, who is party General Secretary and Chairman of the Military Commission as well as President, will not yield.

The party, trying to stanch the leaks, is threatening punishment for those who reveal information about the congress, especially to foreigners, and it is said that officials are now forbidden to read foreign newspapers.

In a further development Bao Ge, one of the few dissidents not in exile or prison, has published an open letter to Mr Jiang calling for a reversal of the verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen killings, officially called a "counter-revolutionary incident", and the most painful lingering dilemma in China.

Writing from Shanghai, Mr Bao referred to the national wave of peasant and worker demonstrations as a sign that Chinese want democracy. He suggested that the body of Chairman Mao, now mummified in Tiananmen, should be

cremated as a sign that in death he has no further influence.

Although courageous, the influence of such letters is generally short-lived in Beijing at such times and their writers are usually detained. It would mark a change if Mr Bao remained at liberty.

In the midst of this controversy, certain other traditions — especially the praise of top leaders — remain.

The official press now claims that this is the happiest period in China's 3,000-year history, and that Mr Jiang has succeeded where even Mao and Deng Xiaoping failed. The position of Mr Jiang as what Deng called "the core", is being vigorously promoted. Last month a book was published in which his ideas were elevated to the status of "thought", which had been limited to Mao and Deng.

Now the official *China Daily*, a sister publication of the party's mouthpiece, the *People's Daily*, has declared that "China is in the midst of its best period in history", with "Jiang Zemin at the core".

In a rare fundamental criticism of Mao and Deng, the article observed that "the previous two generations ... failed" to deal with the problems of tax reform, controlling the economy and narrowing the gap between rich and poor. Under Mr Jiang's "core leadership", however, the article observes, taxes have swelled the state treasury, the previously overheated economy has achieved a soft landing, and prosperity has become more common across the country.

Meanwhile, nearly two and a half years after being toppled as Beijing's party chief, Chen Xitong, the former Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee, has been expelled from the party for corruption.

Xinhua, the official news agency, said the decision to expel the 67-year-old was taken by the party's Discipline Inspection Commission. He is the highest party official to be expelled in recent years, observers said.



Zhu spent years in political disgrace



Ali, with his wife Lonnie, throws a jab to make light of his crippling disability

Joking Ali knocks his illness

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MUHAMMAD ALI, arguably the most popular sportsman this century, has given his most detailed account to date of the Parkinson's disease from which he suffers.

"I'm still the greatest," Ali told reporters in Chicago, his irrepressible vanity undimmed by years of illness. Speaking at a press conference organised by Pharmacia & Upjohn, an American pharmaceutical company, the former world heavyweight champion said there was no necessary link between the degenerative brain disorder and boxing. Whispering hoarsely, he added that "boxing's much tougher" than the disease.

Although Ali's slurred speech and jolting movements continue to break the



The Greatest when his fists ruled the world

hearts of those who once saw him float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, the occasion did at least show that "The Greatest" was in buoyant spirits. His wife, Lonnie, was with him and together they appealed for a greater public

awareness of the disease. Ali's condition, which affects more than 1.5 million Americans, has led to a shuffling walk, frozen facial expression and shaking hands, all shown worldwide when he lit the flame at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

Ali's wife said: "Muhammad has refused to let Parkinson's slow him down ... we are planning to build a gym where he will work out daily, hitting the bag and sparring." She said he walked up to five miles a day, but Ali cheerfully disagreed with her, shaking his head and holding up all ten fingers.

At the end of the meeting, Ali and his wife were given a pair of red boxing gloves. Rising to his feet and arching his eyebrows, he delivered a jab: "I come all the way here, give you a nice little talk, and this is all you give me?"

WORLD IN BRIEF

Korean soldiers 'infiltrate South'

Seoul: An unknown number of North Korean soldiers reportedly crossed the Korean border yesterday, and the South said it shot dead one who snaked his way through decades-old minefields. The Defence Ministry said the North Korean soldier aimed his rifle at South Korean guards when he was challenged a few yards from the southern end of the 2½-mile wide demilitarised zone. "Our side fired about 10 rounds" killing the man, the ministry said. Southern troops were searching for other soldiers who might have infiltrated the South. It did not say if some of the North Koreans had crossed back to the North after the shooting. (Reuters)

Haiti ferry toll disputed

Miami: Rescue teams searching for survivors from the ferry that capsized off the coast of Haiti on Monday believe at least 100 people died, but the figure could be very much higher (David Adams writes). The vessel's captain said he had been carrying 260 passengers, of whom more than 100 survived by swimming about 50 yards to the shore. But Haitian witnesses and relatives of the missing said the ferry was carrying up to 700 people. There is no record of any passenger manifest, but it is known that the 60ft ferry was designed to carry only 80 passengers.

Ex-spy replaces De Klerk

Johannesburg: Marthinus van Schalkwyk, right, a former South African intelligence agent, was elected to lead the National Party yesterday (Sam Kiley writes). He replaces F.W. de Klerk who resigned as party leader last month. Mr van Schalkwyk, 37, said: "Political parties must work together and I foresee that the NP will be part of a coalition government in 2004." Origins, he added, were less important than "our destiny".



Comoros Cabinet sacked

Mutsamudu, Comoros: President Taki of the Comoros islands in the Indian Ocean assumed total power and dismissed his Cabinet, he announced on Radio Moroni. His announcement came a day after separatists set up their own "independent" government on Anjouan island. Last week the secessionists defeated federal troops sent to their island a month after Anjouan first declared independence. The President said he was convening a special session of the national assembly and installing a transitional government. (AFP)

Algerian terrorists raided

Paris: The headquarters of Algeria's most militant terrorist group has been besieged and destroyed by government forces, with the death of at least 70 rebels, according to press reports (Ben Macintyre writes). The raid on the hideout of the Armed Islamic Group in the forests between Blida and Medea provinces followed a tip-off. *El Watan* newspaper reported. Another 147 rebels were killed in a separate operation in the Chrea district.

Mir crew repairs computer

Moscow: The crew of the Russian space station Mir restarted the main computer yesterday after a component failure on Monday forced the closure of all but essential systems in the latest of a catalogue of problems (Robin Lodge writes). Officials at mission control near Moscow said that the faulty component had been identified and replaced and the computer was now working normally.

'Apartheid' methods used in forced removal of Bushmen

BOTSWANA government officials are involved in "apartheid-style" forced removals of Bushmen from their ancestral homelands in the central Kalahari Desert, cutting off water supplies and threatening the hunter-gatherers with attack by the army.

The First People of the Kalahari, a human rights group, said yesterday that hundreds of Bushmen had been driven from their lands and forced to live in arid villages outside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in the past few weeks.

The "forced removal" of Bushmen from Gope and Xade to "New Xade" outside the reserve files in the face of calls for a moratorium on the movements until an international fact-finding mission has visited the area and been able to produce a report.

"The Government seems bent on making sure that as many people as possible are moved out as possible before anyone visits the central Kalahari," said Chris Erni, spokesman for the First People, which was due to participate in the mission later this month.

Only about 1,500 Bushmen still live as hunter-gatherers in the central Kalahari and are among Africa's last people to depend on the fruits of the wild to survive. The only other people to live a roughly similar traditional life are the Twa, or Pygmies, of central Africa.

The Kalahari Bushmen were celebrated for their gentleness and closeness to nature by Sir Laurens van der Post, who died this year and had been for many years a confidant of the Prince of Wales.

The Botswana Government, dominated by the Tswana, a Bantu ethnic group, consider the Bushmen an embarrassment. Officials refer to the Bushmen openly as "savages" or "stone age creatures".

International protests at plans to move the Bushmen from their home territories earlier this year resulted in demands from members of the House of Lords in London that the Botswana Government should end the relocation policy. However, Mr Erni, said: "They have gone ahead with



Sam Kiley reports on the plight of an ancient people as the Government of Botswana seeks to uproot them

the plan just as they always hoped and largely in secret."

The mainly illiterate Bushmen were granted special rights to continue to live in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve under British rule in the 1950s. But in the past few years the Botswana Government has tried to end that privilege and has launched an initiative to "civilize" the nomadic Bushmen. Few now live the wandering life. But hundreds still depend on the veld for their food and as an essential part of their culture.

The Government said that the Bushmen would qualify for remote-area grants if they formed themselves into villages, outside the reserve. But they suspect that if they move they will be denied access to the wildlife, on which they depend, and that the reserve

will then be turned over to cattle ranchers, who form the most powerful political lobby in Botswana.

Several people who agreed to move told First People that they had done so after they were threatened with deployment of the Botswana Defence Force and had been told that soldiers would force them into lorries at gunpoint.

These allegations come after a human rights report earlier this year which detailed the torture of the Bushmen, who have no word for "murder" in their own languages.

Between 100 and 150 of them are still holding out against government pressure to leave Mothomelo, which is in the centre of the vast desert area, although most have agreed to move.

The First People investiga-

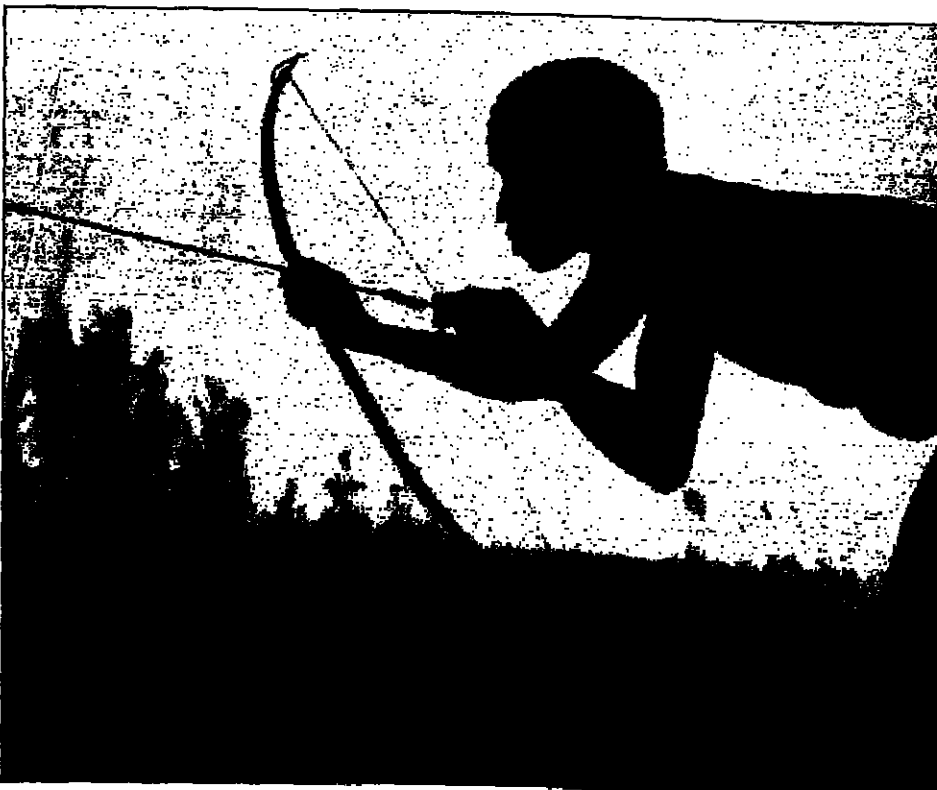
tors said that they had visited the village to discover that government officials were deliberately refusing the Bushmen water unless they signed an agreement to leave.

The government officials said that they would not repair a borehole until leaders of the community had signed.

"People saw they just had no choice but to sign in order to save their animals and themselves from dying of thirst," one of the First People investigators said.

An official in the Botswana Government denied that Bushmen had been threatened and said that the relocation policy was "for their own good" and part of the Government's policy to develop tourism and conservation in the Kalahari.

However, safari companies and conservation groups have already joined in condemning the removal of the Bushmen, whose expertise in the desert and vast knowledge of the flora and fauna of the region are seen as an asset to conservationists and travel operators.



Kalahari Bushman — threatened with forcible removal by troops from land

REWARDING TIMES

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THE TIMES
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TOKEN 2

British troops rescue Karadzic men from siege

BRITISH troops helped to break a siege of Banja Luka's central Bosna Hotel yesterday, escorting politicians, bodyguards and police loyal to war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic to safety.

The rescue of the Bosnian Serb hardliners, stranded in the town controlled by their opponent, President Plavsic, ended 24 hours of humiliation for them. They had come to Banja Luka on Monday in the hope of upstaging Mrs Plavsic by holding an election rally, or even toppling her in a coup. But their busloads of paid supporters were never allowed near the town and they were trapped in the hotel for most of the time. They were finally submitted to the shame of being bundled to safety in Warrior armoured personnel carriers of the Nato "occupation force" that they spend so much time berating.

Jacques Klein, the burly American diplomat who negotiated their undignified exit, summed up the spectacle, undoubtedly the last attempt at rallying support for Dr Karadzic's policies in western Bosnia, by saying: "If these were coup plotters, then they're a pretty sorry bunch."

Shortly afterwards a motley group of about 40 bodyguards, along with their political bosses from Dr Karadzic's eastern Bosnian stronghold of Pale, left the Bosna Hotel.



Serb hardliners who tried to upstage President Plavsic have fled in humiliation, reports Tom Walker in Banja Luka

their heads bowed as a crowd of several thousand screamed abuse at them.

This was very much Mrs Plavsic's day, and a fillip for the Western powers which believe she is the only hope of keeping Republika Srpska in the Dayton peace process.

The trouble for the Pale hardliners began on Monday evening when it became apparent that few of their supporters had made the long trip through the Serb corridor linking the eastern and western Serb territories. British and American troops from Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) mounted roadblocks to back up Mrs Plavsic's loyal police and turned back nearly 50 busloads of thugs. Mr Klein, the Office of the High Representative's administrator in the troubled town of Brcko, which straddles the corridor, claimed most of them had been paid by Pale to board the buses.

The hardliners, led by Momcilo Krajisnik, Dr Karadzic's business partner and the Serb representative on Bosnia's state presidency, unwisely attempted to press

ahead with a rally, which ended with hooligans loyal to Mrs Plavsic smashing their cars. "Go back to the woods," they cried, an expression the urban Serbs of Banja Luka use to taunt their country cousins from Pale. Mr Krajisnik and his entourage quickly took refuge in the Hotel Bosna.

Early yesterday Mr Klein and British Sfor troops offered to escort them to safety, but Mr Krajisnik refused. "It was a mistake on his part," Mr Klein said. "Time's running out for them."

Inside the Bosna, a surreal atmosphere prevailed: journalists and their translators mingled with crewcut thugs armed with pistols and machineguns. Food and drink ran out, and electricity was cut. Mrs Plavsic's supporters hurled eggs at the balcony. At around noon Sfor troops and the Office of the High Representative advised Dr Karadzic's men to leave.

Negotiations stalled over the surrendering of their weapons, but a blunt Mr Klein gave Mr Krajisnik's entourage 30 minutes to make up their minds, and sent for 11 British Warrior armoured carriers. "Let's hope that reason prevails," Mr Klein said.

At 2.30pm, the hardliners emerged from troops from the Royal Hussars and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers moved in to disarm them. Only a heavy police cordon prevented any lynchings as the Pale crowd ran the gamut of the Banja Luka mob.

Mr Krajisnik was among the last to leave, keeping the mob in suspense until evening fell. He departed with Dragan Kijac, the hated Interior Minister sacked by Mrs Plavsic. When they emerged from the hotel with ten bodyguards, they were roundly booed and pelted with eggs and stones.



The confrontation between Mrs Plavsic and Dr Karadzic as seen by the Wiener Zeitung



Emma Nicholson in Cape Town with a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's investigation unit

ANC 'colluded in spiriting away Winnie case witness'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress and South Africa's white Government colluded in abducting the main prosecution witness against Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in the Stompie Seipei Mooketsi case, according to allegations in a book published in South Africa yesterday.

Fred Bridgland, author of *Katiza's Journey: Beneath the Surface of South Africa's Shame*, which is based on interviews with the missing witness, alleges that Mrs Mandela, then wife of Nelson Mandela, stabbed the teenage township activist in the throat and neck. When the case came to trial in 1991, Katiza Cebekhulu was spirited out of the country to Zambia, at the request of Oliver Tambo, the

former ANC president, with the help of President Kaunda of Zambia, the book says.

Mr Cebekhulu was sent to Sierra Leone and stayed in Britain under the protection of Emma Nicholson, the former MP. Miss Nicholson, who is soon to enter the House of Lords, met members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town yesterday to discuss whether the commission could meet to hear Mr Cebekhulu's evidence against Mrs Mandela outside South Africa for his own safety.

Mrs Mandela, speaking at a press conference here yesterday, claimed that the media had tried to butcher her character and asked: "Where is Cebekhulu? Is the state

machinery unable to get hold of this unsophisticated person so that he tells the truth? He must come home to stand the trial he ran away from and to say who helped him leave the country and why."

The book also implicates Mrs Mandela in the murder of several other black township activists before she was found guilty of kidnapping charges in the Stompie trial, for which she received a six-year suspended sentence, later commuted to a fine.

Dr Kaunda is quoted as saying that he believed the request to take Mr Cebekhulu was made by the late Mr Tambo, who allegedly spoke with Mr Mandela's authority. There is no direct evidence indicating Mr Mandela's in-

volvement. "He [Tambo] said that Nelson wants this man out of South Africa," Dr Kaunda is quoted as saying. "He said that we must go by what Nelson said about him, so we took that on trust."

The motives for spiriting away Mr Cebekhulu were less to protect Mrs Mandela than to keep the negotiations between the ANC and the ruling National Party on track, the book said.

Mr Bridgland and Miss Nicholson, who wrote a forward to the book, also claim that foreign governments, including the British, had been warned not to give Mr Cebekhulu asylum because it would "harm relations" with Pretoria after Mr Mandela was elected President.

Mother Teresa on fast track to sainthood

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

MOTHER Teresa, eulogised by the Pope this week as "the unforgettable Mother of the Poor", could be made a saint through "fast track procedures" because of her obvious holiness, a senior Vatican official said yesterday.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who is close to the Pope, said some cases of beatification and canonisation were so clear that the normally slow and exhaustive process could run more swiftly.

"I am not privy to the innermost thoughts of the Holy Father... but I think he wants the process to be speeded up," Cardinal Ratzinger said. Mother Teresa had been "so resplendent in the eyes of everyone" and had led a life "so lucid, limpid and transparent" that the process could be "less long".

The Pope devoted his entire Angelus address to Mother Teresa on Sunday, praising her as "an eloquent example to all believers and non-believers". He said he had met her many times, and "she lives in my memory as a tiny figure full of inexhaustible spiritual energy, the energy of the love of Christ".

On the day after her death, the pontiff described her as an "extraordinary person of unwavering faith" who had "marked the history of the 20th century... she made those who had been defeated by life feel the tenderness of God".

The Pope was visibly moved when he visited her home and hospice in the Calcutta slum of Kalighat in February 1986. Calcutta: Three rifle shots, and not a traditional 21-gun salute, will be fired at Mother Teresa's state funeral on Saturday, Indian authorities said. Doctors expressed concern over the condition of the body as it lay in a church hall in this humid city, where queues of mourners stretched for a mile. (Reuters)

Easy to be good, page 17

40,000 to go free in Russian amnesty

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN prisons will release about 40,000 convicts in the next few weeks under an amnesty aimed at relieving overcrowding, Gennadi Seleznev, Chairman of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, announced yesterday.

Last week President Yeltsin called for an amnesty to deal with what he described as an "extremely tense situation" in some of the country's prisons. He said the amnesty could affect about 400,000 people in all, but most of these are understood to be on probation or parole.

Up to 40,000 inmates, including those with records for good behaviour, war veterans, the sick, and pregnant women, will be considered for immediate release. Another 60,000 are expected to have their sentences reduced. Murderers, rapists or racketeers are excluded.

The chief prosecutor's office gave a warning earlier this year of a social explosion unless something was done to alleviate prison overcrowding. Russia's prison population has swollen by about 50 per cent to nearly a million since the fall of communism, reflecting the sharp rise in crime across the country. Police point to the prison population as evidence of the success of their fight against crime, while critics maintain that only small fry are caught and that many of these would be better suited to non-custodial sentences.

Some of the worst conditions are in Moscow's remand prisons, where often between 70 and 80 inmates are crammed into cells designed for 30 and are forced to sleep in shifts. The prisons were built a century ago and cells are without plumbing or sanitation. Inmates go for days without washing or exercising and the spread of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and cholera, is rife. Suicides are common, as are violence and sexual abuse.

Cook on crusade for 'People's Europe'

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HAMBURG

ROBIN COOK arrived in Hamburg yesterday to try to win support for a "People's Europe" just as Germany announced record postwar unemployment figures.

Making his second visit to Germany as Foreign Secretary, Mr Cook told Klaus Kinkel, his German counterpart, that Britain wanted to use its coming presidency of the European Union to launch a crusade against unemployment and to bring the union closer to the people.

In a speech at the city hall, he said European leaders needed to show voters that they shared the concerns of ordinary people. "The whole thrust of our presidency will be to try to create a Europe for the people," he said.

In the first detailed outline of how Labour intends to use its six-months in the chair next year, Mr Cook said the EU must above all tackle the "jobs crisis". It must create more employment, reflate economies and remove remaining obstacles to the single market.

His words will be welcome in Germany, where jobs and

the single currency are at the heart of the September 21 state election in Hamburg.

The poll is widely perceived as a test of the beleaguered Kohl Government's popularity, and Herr Kinkel, a leading member of the Free Democratic Party, is fighting to win back seats in the state legislature for his endangered party.

In talks with Henning Voscherau, the ruling Social Democratic Mayor of Hamburg, whose party has ruled here since 1957, Mr Cook tried to lend some of Labour's new popularity abroad to the struggling German Social Democrats.

But he has dashed hopes that Britain would support a substantial cut in Germany's EU budget payments. He said at the weekend that Labour could not accept any contribution formula that would require Britain to pay more. He told *Welt am Sonntag* that Britain would not pick up the bill for Germany, but it would favour a sharp cut in agricultural payments to reduce the overall budget total.

Last night he again

emphasised the need for a huge cut in the common agricultural policy. Europe must put its money into those industries where people worked and not spend half its budget on agriculture, which employs only 4 per cent of the people, he said.

Despite rumours that Bonn hopes Britain will help to find a formula to delay European Monetary Union, the Foreign Secretary has made clear that the Government will not take decisions for others, indicating that Germany must decide for itself whether it wants to go ahead with EMU.

Mr Cook's visit yesterday dwelt on Labour's new positive vision of Europe, emphasising benefits such as the Social Chapter, the common fight against drugs and the benefits that would make a difference to the ordinary citizen. He said Europe must escape jargon and its obsession with institutional detail. But he also emphasised a new closeness in Anglo-German relations coming after what he called the Conservatives' confrontational policies.

Public executions for Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHNYA's newly installed Islamic courts will demonstrate that they are serious about imposing Sharia (Islamic law) over the breakaway nation when two more Chechen convicts are shot in Grozny's main square today.

Despite an outcry in Russia about televised executions last week, the Chechen authorities intend to shoot two more alleged murderers as part of a campaign to stamp out persistent lawlessness.

Hundreds of spectators gathered a week ago in the city's Friendship Square to watch as a young man and his wife were handcuffed to posts and riddled with bullets by hooded gunmen firing Kal-



ashnikovs. The two had been convicted by an Islamic court of murdering a man. A second woman's execution has been delayed because she is pregnant.

Although Islam stipulates that the dead should be buried as soon as possible, President Maskhadov has decreed that, as a deterrent, the bodies of those executed should be

put on display with placards stating their crimes.

The Sharia courts, the first to be established anywhere in the former Soviet Union, had until this month confined themselves to public floggings for drinking alcohol. Now Chechnya seems determined to exercise the same strict Muslim code as that enforced in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Iran. More than 30 people, most charged over a recent spate of kidnappings, have been sentenced to death and are expected to be shot in the coming weeks.

Last week's executions provoked a strong reaction in Russia, but the two sides are clearly not going to allow their differences over human rights to derail a vital oil agreement which was concluded yesterday.

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Why we all long to be in the therapist's chair

Therapy has become a national obsession — part religion, part game show. Erica Wagner reports

Suddenly, it's good to talk. Hugh Laurie, stepping into Bob Hoskins's matty, slightly condescending shoes, now tells us so on behalf of British Telecom, and we believe him. But to a greater and greater extent, people are not picking up the phone to call their nearest and dearest and unburden their souls; they are finding themselves a giver of professional succour.

In 1987 there were 3,000 members of the British Association for Counselling; five years later the number had risen to 11,000 and is now at 15,000. Sixty per cent of GP surgeries employ counsellors and two-thirds of their salaries are paid by the NHS. Where once those in distress turned to religion, now they turn to therapy: there are now as many as ten times the number training to be counsellors as there are training to be Church of England priests.

The media is suffused by differing manifestations of this desire for psychic healing: from the columns of agony aunts and uncles to the investigations of celebrity souls — both with the consent of the soul concerned, in programmes such as Professor Anthony Clare's *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*, Oliver James's *The Chair* — or, in the case of James, putting "Diana on the couch" on the very Sunday of her death, without.

Tomorrow, at Church House, Westminster, Professor Clare and Dr Raj Persaud, eminent professionals and interviewers both, will debate whether or not it is possible to stay sane in the Nineties. This is the new, public face of a profession previously defined by an unbreakable code of confidentiality. Mental health and happiness are no longer privileged to privacy.

Clare's radio programme *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*, now in its sixteenth year, is one of the longest-running manifestations of the examination of the psyche in public.

It is fascinating in the same way as biography: our appetite for details of people's lives seems insatiable. But its subjects are not long-buried princes or prime ministers. They live and breathe, and choose to air their dramas and dilemmas for our entertainment. Why?

Brian Masters was one of Clare's most recent guests: author of books on Dennis Nilsen and Rosemary West, among others, he is himself best known for examining the criminal mind. He admits that vanity had not a little to do with the decision to bare his soul.

It's very flattering to imagine that a bunch of strangers is going to find your life interesting. But does such a public airing do any good or serve any purpose? Masters admits that he was surprised to find himself saying to Clare something he had not realised about himself before. "I suppose I discovered that I am almost too self-sufficient; it's hard for anyone to do anything for me — something I hadn't really known, although I had thought about the feelings of other people, and my own, a great deal. It shows that it is possible to discover something unrealised at the hands of a skilled analyst."

But art, he contends, defines the limits of analysis. "If you want to learn about the human soul, all you have to do is read the great works. If you have read your Shakespeare and Dostoevsky, you might not have to go through all this..."

But analysing creations of fiction is very different from the modern attempt to analyse strangers who may seem — through their existence in the media — almost like characters from novels. For surely one of the most peculiar manifestations of the modern analytical obsession is the willingness to believe that it is possible to know a stranger's — usually a celebrity's —



On the couch: "In my experience people often go into counselling and never emerge," says Dr Raj Persaud. "I wonder sometimes if counselling isn't the new religion"

heart and mind. Psychologist James, whose book *Britain on the Couch* is published next week and who brought Peter Mandelson to tears on his programme *The Chair*, continued his speculations into royal minds in *The Sunday Times*, assessing the grief and prospects of Prince William and Prince Harry.

James is convinced that such discussion is possible, and worthwhile. "There is a disclaimer in the first paragraph of that piece on Prince William that says we don't know about his relationship with his parents and so can only work from the available facts. In cases like this it always depends how much information is in the public domain and how much of it is worth anything. You look at the facts, you look at possibilities and probabilities. Of course, there is a difference between talking to someone and not; and the further you stretch evidence, the less you are able to assert anything with confidence. And you must always remain aware that the person is a human being and try to make what you say as accurate as possible."

Professor Clare has little truck with such work. "The Royal College of Psychiatrists has guidelines that state clearly that such work is unacceptable professionally. You might comment — as I have done — on someone's behaviour, but you cannot explain it in terms of psychopathology."

"I think it's a regrettable activity if you don't know the person. Discussing what they have done publicly is one thing; but to look back at their childhood and do a speculative job is another, and I



Examining the psyche in public: Oliver James, Dr Raj Persaud and Professor Anthony Clare

would be very wary of that." But this, too, seems a part of the new, public face of therapy. And although Professor Clare, for one, denies that what he does on a programme such as *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* is analysis, both phenomena are a manifestation of a need to know the feelings of others, to show our own to the world.

Is this a need that springs from misery? In *Britain on the Couch* James asks why, as a society, we seem to be unhappier now than we were only 40 years ago — despite being, for the most part, materially better-off. His contention, that the stresses of modern life actually alter our brain chemistry, might explain why more and more people are turning to counsellors to help them cope with their daily lives. But there is at least one media shrink who doubts this is entirely to the



good. Dr Persaud's impeccable credentials — one of the youngest doctors ever to be appointed consultant psychiatrist at both the Bethlem Royal Hospital and Maudsley Hospital in London, winner of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Prize and Medal in 1993 — support appearances in broadcast and print journalism (columns in *The Daily Mail* and *Cosmopolitan*, resident psychiatrist on Granada TV's *This Morning*) that seem to make him ubiquitous.

He is now the author of *Staying Sane: How to Make Your Mind Work for You*, in which he maintains that mental fitness can be maintained in much the same way as physical fitness. Working on developing strong mental health can keep problems from turning into crises and can keep people out of what can become a cycle of



these secular days.

People may no longer go to worship with as much regularity as once they did, but if a study conducted by the University of Leeds is to be believed, 55 per cent of people believe in second sight, 67 per cent believe there is some truth in astrology and 15 per cent that abduction by aliens is possible. Clearly the need to believe in something is still very strong.

Dr Anthony Storr, a psychiatrist and author who has turned his analytical gaze on men such as Churchill and Jesus (his most recent book, *Feet of Clay*, is a study of gurus), confesses that the confessional impulse leaves him puzzled. "Well, I'm secretive, really," he says. "I don't want to air my own problems, and I find the whole thing rather distasteful — just letting it all hang out. But one is so used to maintaining confidence as a psychiatrist that you query any public airing; it begins to look just like vulgar show."

But Clare reminds me that *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* was created following the comment of a patient of his — who has since committed suicide — that she believed all public figures had perfect lives. It seemed to him worthwhile to show that this was not the case; and so, perhaps, help people to acknowledge their own distress.

"It's not just entertainment; it is potentially enormously helpful. We may indeed have created a monster in the media — but now we have to use it."

Public show versus private emotion + Why death is so shocking to modern values + Superstition behind people's shrines + Shopping-list condolences

WATCH OUT: the grief police are about. If you are not weeping, wailing and gnashing your teeth you've had it. You're a cold fish, an unfeeling monster, a non-person.

I wrote last week, tentatively, of the difficulty of extracting any real sense of what private reality was like from the projection of a public image. We presume there to be some connection between the two, but perhaps even so we miscalculate the precise nature of that relationship. Regarding grief, it is particularly difficult.

But with grief, it seems, everyone is keenest to make the snap judgments. It's not simply a case of "better out than in"; the modern consensus seems to be that if it isn't out then it can't be in.

It's hard to know quite how such an idea has taken hold. But the evidence that it has is extraordinary. I am a rather emotional person, but I would never, if I could help it, cry out loud in front of people. At my saddest, my feelings have been at their most buried, not their most volubly expressed.

I make this admission not because I have fallen prey to the confessional impulse but because I take issue with the general tendency to depict self-control as a

Cruelty of demanding that bereaved display their grief

particular failing of desiccated royals. It's not a question of stiff upper lip, of assumptions of superiority or alienation from how "real people" feel: it is about how one is.

Undoubtedly, the old way was not always right: it was cruel to make people swallow their deepest feelings if their deepest feelings cried out for utterance. But palpably, it is as ludicrous to insist we all squeeze our tears out for public edification.

I was shocked that — as it was decreed — "the ordinary people" demanded shows of grief from those poor bereaved boys in order, it was all but threatened, for them to continue bestowing the blessing of their sympathy on the Princess. (It might be more democratic to use us and our, but I can't bear it.) Are we so crude, have we such coarse sensibilities and such lack of

imagination, that we need to see proof that a child suffers when its mother dies?

Perhaps it is true that the character of the person who dies affects the way in which others mourn them. Diana, Princess of Wales, did appear to approve of showing her wounds in the mar-

Nigella Lawson



ketplace. And yet, even so, greater claims are made for that than is perhaps correct.

There must still have been a difference between public and private: there has to be. But we presumed there wasn't as the idea flattered us: what we got was the real thing. For no reason that is rooted in our knowledge of our-

selves, we base such observations on the idea of personality as unified, monolithic, free of contradictions. Or maybe it's just that we have no self-knowledge, either.

When I heard one broadcaster say on the radio on Saturday, "This isn't a display of public grief, it is a display of personal grief expressed a million times over," I realised how ludicrous it had got. First we revile the idea of a distinction between private and public, then we refuse to believe there can even be one; now we hold

that only the private is real, that anything public must be false. It isn't a private grief — except for friends or family — but to describe those displays of mourning as a public grief doesn't indicate that none of it exists.

Declaring only one part of life to be real does more than unbalance us: it shows us to be unhinged.

WE LIVE in a society in which the sex taboo has been replaced, until now, by a death taboo. The shock was therefore immense. But it is not even just a matter of taboo — although the breaking of it understandably carried in its wake a vast unleashing of strong feelings — but of experience.

In any other age it would have

Let us end the taboo on death

been impossible for people to get to adulthood without encountering death, but this is commonplace now. Most of my friends have never seen a dead body: many

have never had anyone close to them die.

And if you haven't gone through any of this personally, you can't imagine what it feels like, how it could be. It is this fortunate lack of experience as much as unfortunate want of imagination that makes people so crassly uncomprehending of real feeling, real grief.

Back to the Dark Ages

FOR THE first part of last week I was deeply moved by the response of the public. By the end of it I was beginning to feel rather disturbed by it. There was something unsettling about seeing London turned into a medieval Catholic village. (And I don't use the term pointedly to denigrate Roman Catholics: I presume that they, you are more upset than I am by the idolatry.)

Everywhere one looked there was a shrine set up. It was like being in one of those sparse hilltop communities in Italy (or, those better-travelled than I am tell me, South America) hung with amulets and strange religio-medical offerings.

Unbeliever as I am, I can't quite say it made me appreciate the uses and benefits of religion, but it did make me wonder how helpful the modern world has been in advancing civilisation.

We disparage hypocrisy and usher in emotional fundamentalism. We seek to sanitise life, to remove the stain of death and suffering, and then fragment when given proof that both still hold great sway. We banish religion and watch the proliferation of superstitious voodoo instead.

I don't conclude, can't conclude, from any of that that the way forward is the way back. But I am afraid that it appears undeniable that, as history always seems to show us, people really do prefer the darkness to the light.

Sympathetic shopping

ONE more and I'll get off the subject, I promise. On Saturday evening I went to Tesco to get some food for the weekend. Nestling beyond the tills was a table and the now normal shrine set up, with a book of condolence propped upon it. What I don't understand, is this: if people are so moved that they feel they must write a message of condolence (which instinct I don't disparage), why would they not be sufficiently moved to make an effort to do so? It doesn't make sense to say "I am so upset I must inscribe my name in a book of condolence, but only if I can fit it in during the week's shop in Tesco." Further to this, a friend tells me that various people in her office were asking for extended lunch hours so that they could pay their respects at the various palaces. Funny how their sincere impulses didn't drive them to do it during their own time.



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Strange, how easy it is to be good

In the second extract from her new biography, Anne Sebba asks who, exactly, Mother Teresa served with her work among the destitute

I have one overwhelming memory of my visit to Delhi — the baby with two heads.

This baby, six months old, was lying on a cold cement floor with a pillow under its rear head. I could not see how developed the second face was, but I could see the front one clearly enough, and there was an open wound in its forehead. Both heads emanated from one tiny trunk, and the body was curled in a fetal ball. I could not remove my gaze from this desperate accident of humanity.

"Is she in pain?" I asked the Missionary of Charity sister who was showing me round the Delhi orphanage. "Of course," she replied. "She can't lift her heads, they are too heavy. But everything is in God's hands. There is nothing any hospital can do for the baby... Nature has its way."

"What about the mother?" I asked. "She must be in shock. Does anyone know who or how she is?" If they did, I was not told. The mother seemed unimportant. It was not a case they wished to discuss and talk quickly turned to poverty in the West — much more serious, the sister said, because it was emotional poverty.

This tragic, two-headed baby focuses for me the essence of the role of the Missionaries of Charity. Had it not been for them, this baby would have died at birth, or soon after, wherever it was dumped — a refuse bin or the street.

Clearly she had been fed by the nuns — she was thin but not puny and would not have survived that long without nourishment. And she had been shown love. But what do we mean by love? Why, as I went around the orphanage, did I see no toys in the cots, no pictures on the walls, no mobiles for any of the children, most of them too deformed to do anything other than look at an interesting object? As the sister told me, the baby with two heads would die soon, indeed is probably dead as I write this. And how much will she have suffered, and for what? Why, if she was in pain, was she not given painkillers, and being looked after in a hospital bed by trained nursing staff?

There are no simple answers, but the question remains: Is it an adequate response to take in a sick person, child or adult, and offer care if you are not prepared to give the highest level of care society is capable of? Is it arrogant to presume that, although a body of knowledge exists, you need not make use of it? I discussed this with people far better qualified than I.

"Take the parable of the Good Samaritan," I said to a Catholic bishop. "At least he did something to help."

"Yes," replied the bishop, "but if the Samaritan repeatedly crossed the road, and helped ever more people, by design rather than accident, so that a form of institution was created to help victims, then the care owed should be of the highest standard available."

Professor David Baum, president of the College of Paediatrics and Child Health and a leading light in the development of children's hospices and respite care in the United Kingdom, sees it rather differently.

"Giving the best care has so many dimensions that you might never do anything,



MOTHER TERESA
Beyond
— the —
image

Mother Teresa has had a vision that you don't just walk past a baby, you pick it up, and if the idea catches on... It is a very difficult position to get into equilibrium but I can imagine, without being critical, that it's unstoppable."

In 1994 Mother Teresa's attitude to the role medicine could play in her organisation became a matter of public debate when Dr Robin Fox, Editor of the *Lancet*, spent a day at the Home for the Dying. "Because it's such a long-standing place, I expected something that would be setting an example of how to look after the dying," he said.

His disappointment was in-

'A woman dying in agony spent her last hour being washed by a frightened, incompetent stranger'

tense. Although he had not initially intended to write anything, he felt compelled to. In the first place, he found the standard of medical care haphazard, with sisters and volunteers left to take decisions on no diagnostic basis. In addition, he wrote: "If you give money to Mother Teresa's home, don't expect it to be spent on some little luxury," referring to an electric blender he knew had been given to the home to help those who had trouble swallowing their food.

"I was told it was not in accordance with their philosophy. What shocked me most was the insistence on simplicity to the point of discomfort. There are many things that could make a patient more comfortable, and yet keep the

movement. I know which I prefer."

Of the thousands of backpacking volunteers who fetch up at Mother Teresa's at all times of year, few write home praising the high standard of medical care. Although most nationalities are represented, most are English and American twentysomethings travelling in the sub-continent just before or after going to university. Many, says one British journalist, treat Mother Teresa's as a finishing school where you can lose weight.

"The two fail-safe methods for getting thin in one's early twenties are to go to India or to get engaged. The first is easier," wrote Ysenda Maxtone Graham in May 1995. "To become a fully-fledged India girl you must, at some stage in your travels, work for Mother Teresa. The conscience of a girl who has lived a sheltered life on the private tennis courts of England is suddenly pricked. Doing menial tasks surrounded by the dying is a way of soothing it. The urge seems to be to stay for only a short time, but in that time to steep oneself in as much real-life misery as possible."

Most of the helpers, wherever they originate, stay in cheap hotels with peeling walls and cockroaches. And even if advice were given in advance, it would be impossible to describe the stench of rotten flesh, urine, faeces and disinfectant — many helpers are physically sick when they start work.

One difficulty experienced by many of the unpaid workers is the inability to communicate with the Indian paid workers (Maces) or the patients. There are Maces in all the homes, doing the cooking, most of the cleaning and many other things. The ones I saw looked far from cheerful, but perhaps they saw my jaw drop I watched a cloth being used to wipe the bottom of one child and, immediately after, the nose of another.



It would be impossible to describe the stench of rotten flesh, urine, faeces and disinfectant — many helpers are physically sick when they start work

university in 1994. She was aware of the criticisms levelled at privileged students in her position going "to help in India".

She later wrote an article, in which she recorded her feeling that, had she been working for a development agency, she would have been imposing Western standards on a less powerful country. But at Mother Teresa's she "felt a great sense of release... I was absolutely confident that what I was doing was right. If I picked up a boy with polio so he could look out of the window, or just made him laugh, I knew I was being helpful. It was strange to find out how easy it was to be good."

For Rose Billington, and hundreds like her, the sensation of putting the desire to do good into action without feeling guilt or ambiguity in their motives has been a transforming experience.

Such testimonies provide a key reason for Mother Teresa not simply encouraging the world's youth, many of whom stay for such short periods that they cannot possibly be of real help, but refusing to discriminate between those who might be of some use, and those who are not at all suited to such work. "I am so impressed with the young men and women who come to Calcutta from all over the world — Catholics, Christians and non-Christians," she wrote in a recent newsletter. "Daily they come for Mass and Adoration. During the day they serve the poor. And not one of them goes back the same."

Mother Teresa — Beyond the Image, by Anne Sebba, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £20. To order this book, call The Times Bookshop on 0900 134459 and save £2 on the publisher's RRP.



A volunteer trims a sick patient's nails at the home in Calcutta

conditions consistent with those to which the poor were accustomed.

"Finally," he wrote, "how competent are the sisters at managing pain? On a short visit I could not judge the power of their spiritual approach, but I was disturbed to learn that the formula includes no strong analgesics. This, along with the neglect of diagnosis, marks Mother Teresa's approach as clearly separate from the hospice

Because of the large influx of refugees to Calcutta, even some knowledge of Bengali is often no use — more than 40 per cent of Calcutta's residents speak other languages. When Mary Loudon, an English volunteer, worked at the Home for the Dying, the first thing she was asked to do was wash a woman with tuberculosis. "She was in terrible pain, and so emaciated that the skin was hanging in folds from her arms. Nobody could tell me her name, so I told her mine instead. Nobody told me how to lift or hold her, so I improvised and said 'Sorry' in English when she wept with pain. I still feel profound shame that a woman dying in agony spent the last hour of her life being washed by a frightened, incompetent stranger who couldn't even apologise in her language."

Rose Billington — god-daughter of Malcolm Muggeridge and granddaughter of Lord Longford — spent a few weeks working for Mother Teresa between school and

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

TOMORROW

"You know what? It is good that it is over." Mother Teresa on the collapse of the Royal marriage, the Nobel prize and the price of fame

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Alan Coren



■ Abandon all hope, ye who trample on my midlife crisis in cream

As a leading medieval scholar, I had of course long been familiar with that plangent metaphor from Dante's best-known work, *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*: "In the middle of the road of our life, I came to myself within a dark wood, where the straight way was lost." I had not only long been familiar with it, I had as long trusted that it would be my crutch and succour when I myself struck the age at which much more than one's abdomen goes pear-shaped: I would, that is, feel far less solitary in my own midlife crisis with the knowledge that, seven centuries earlier, Dante had been there before me.

It has not worked. Though I have suddenly come to myself to find the straight way so lost that I no longer know how to eat, how to drink, how to walk, how to sleep, how to relate to my family, how to keep old friends or make new ones, or even what to do if a man comes to read the meter or an insect scuttles in behind him, it has not worked. It has not worked because, for all his genius, Dante didn't have the first idea about fitted A-minister. Especially in cream.

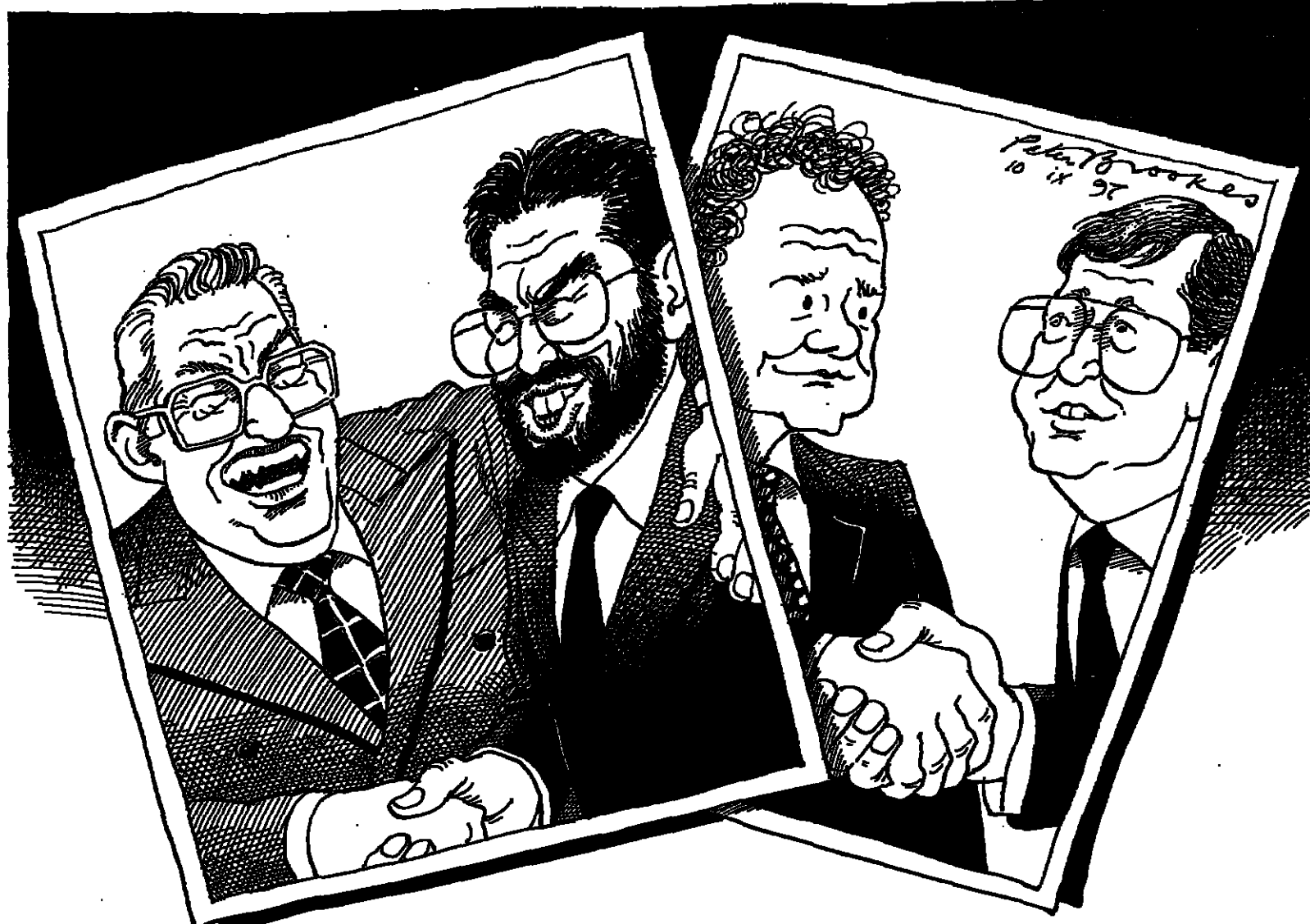
A quarter of a century ago, when I was so far from the middle that I didn't even know there was a wood, we moved into this house. Its floors and staircases were clad throughout in dark-brown carpet, which suited us very well, since we had toddlers who spilled things, threw things, brought things up, and dragged in from street and garden things the dog had so far neglected to. They didn't drag in things the cat had neglected to, because the cat dragged in only things that ran about, briefly, until the cat was ready to put a stop to it. The toddlers didn't do this because they had things of their own which ran about, after their cages had been opened, and until the cat was ready to put a stop to that, too. But we never minded, because the brown carpet was a dab hand at unnoticeably soaking up pee, blood, vomit and the rest, with a bit of help from other dabbling hands, enabling us to preen ourselves on being the sort of unfussy parents whose offspring would not one day end up supine on shrinks' couches, with their trembling legs straight up in the air so their shoes didn't touch the fabric.

We were also great hosts: guests could stomp in with muddy galoshes and dripping brooms and start drinking right away, so that there was bags of spilling time until they had to stagger to the table and begin knocking plates to a carpet canny enough to allow the soup to extinguish the cigarette butts, before imperceptibly absorbing it. It also took nosebleeds in its stride.

And then, last week, it went. Twenty-five years of domestic archaeology were lifted and envaried; and what was devanned was its cream replacement. For, having arrived at the middle, we decided to refurbish the wood, and we felt that cream would be just the ticket. It is the ticket to the rest of the wood, where the straight way is lost. I have lived with it for a week, and I do not know where to turn.

I dare not smoke, except in the kitchen, and if the doorbell goes I have to stub out and tip-toe sockily across the cream hall in case the kitchen floor has left a tomato pip on my shoe, and when I open the door, I dare not let anyone in who does not remove his shoes. Worse yet, since my children have keys and could walk in at any time, before I could stop them, I dare not go upstairs.

I used to eat upstairs, in my study, my bed, my bath, a pizza, a cocoa, a brandy. I dare not do that now, or carry our breakfast tray there, wobbling up cream stairs, across cream landings, into cream rooms. I dare not carry anything, since I dare not put it down, lest there be something transferably uncream on its underside. If it rains I dare not step out, not just because I dare not step in again, but because a burglar might break in before wiping his feet. Yesterday a spider got away with murder, or rather, without it. My dreams of granddaddies have become nightmares. I can never have another pet. I have thrown my last party and eaten my last mango. I live in terror of everything, except dandruff; terror no one else can begin to imagine, for—as even the uncarpeted Dante knew—"com'e duro calce lo scendere e'l salir per l'altrui scale". How hard is the way up and down another man's stairs.



INTIMATE PICTURES NOBODY'S GOING TO PUBLISH...

Scotland's tax timebomb

Mr Blair is wrong: his White Paper will give Scots fiscal autonomy even with a Yes-No vote. They should use it to undercut England

Tony Blair has no vote in tomorrow's Scottish referendum. Yet he has already given his verdict on its "tax-varying" question two. He wants it null and void.

He wishes the Scots to vote yes to their parliament having the power to vary income tax. Yet he will not allow them to exercise that power. He wants Scotland to enjoy fiscal discretion but, having willed that end, cannot bring himself to will the means. He wants Scotland to have babies without having sex.

This is baffling. Mr Blair is ordering the mightiest political machine in the land, the London-led Labour Party, to deny Scotland precisely the autonomy he wants it to grasp. This is the more baffling because the radicalism of tomorrow's question one—setting up the parliament—makes question two irrelevant. Of course any self-respecting parliament should be allowed to vary taxes. But under question two, that power is merely to vary tax by no more than 3p in the pound, yielding (or denying) Scotland a maximum of £450 million. This sum is trivial. The Scottish parliament will be responsible for some £14 billion.

The hullabaloo over question two assumes that any government will raise any tax that comes to hand. This is not true of income tax. Governments the world over do nothing but cut it, throwing the burden on other taxes. British politicians throw it on to borrowing. The Scots may be capable of much lunacy, but I doubt they will let their new parliament do anything as stupid, indeed suicidal, as to put up income tax. They do not need Mr Blair's centralist diktat. If I were a Scottish parliamentarian, I would move heaven and earth not to cut to hold Scottish taxes steady but to cut them below English ones, if only by 1p.

The marketing boost for Scotland would be sensational. Noses would be thumbed at the Tories. Mr Blair and the whole of Britain—at a price of barely 1p per cent of the Scottish budget.

Nor need this mean any cut in services, at least if the White Paper can be taken at its word. This astonishing paper is no constitutional soft-shoe shuffle. It is the most liberal constitutional reform in Britain since Home Rule for Ireland, if not since 1688. Scotland is to have, not a talking-shop like Wales or the European Parliament, but full democratic autonomy over its internal affairs. A Scottish executive with its own "First Minister" will have

charge of transport, education, training, health, environment, the law, prisons, economic development. Where appropriate, a Scottish minister will sit alongside "British" ones at European meetings. Powers reserved to Westminster are limited to social security, VAT, the regulation of industry, and defence and foreign affairs.

The beef of the White Paper lies in its seventh chapter, on finance, and particularly in paragraphs 7.24 to 7.26. They are like a disclaimer clause in an insurance contract, a bomb fused but not timed. These permit the new parliament to decide "whether and how" to cap local council tax, and "the form of local taxation, both domestic and non-domestic, which local authorities will be permitted to levy". There is no limit on these powers, although London may cut the black grant to Scotland should it view the parliament as excessively extravagant.

This is radical devolution. Even if income tax is left from the reckoning, the parliament will have the power to vary all local taxes. It can abolish the council tax cap. It can vary or devolve to councils the uniform business rate. It can invent a whole new basis for local taxation, including business property tax incentives to win inward investment. Indeed I cannot see how London could stop it giving local authorities the freedom to levy a local income tax, thus circumventing a "no" to question two. The Scottish parliament is free to play many variations on a fiscal theme—all of which offer it a chance to force up local taxes to reduce income tax.

For the past quarter century, British central government has been struggling to cut income tax. This hated tax is inescapable, personal and widely publicised. Voters identify it with the venality of government. British Cabinets have, since the mid-1970s, slowly shifted the tax burden on to VAT and local

property rates. In America, this shift was central to the Newt Gingrich "revolution". Local taxes have contributed a rising share of public revenue, even when local spending has not comprised a rising share of public spending.

The only exception in Britain was during the advent and demise of the poll tax in 1989-93. This tax was so unpopular that the Tories capped and subsidised it to keep it down, losing billions in local revenue as a result. Property taxes in Britain fell by some 30 per cent in real terms in the first half of this decade. Other taxes had to rise, crippling the Tories with the charge of being a "high-tax" party. I estimate that, but for poll tax, the Tories could have gone into the last election with a basic rate of income tax of 20p.

Scottish local taxes have also plummeted. Bringing them back to their level before the poll tax fiasco would give the Scottish parliament all the legroom it needs, not just to hold income tax north of the border but to cut it. A 1p cut in income tax would cost just 3 per cent in the new parliament's revenue support grant to Scottish local councils. The £150 million would imply a rise in local domestic and business rates of 7.5 per cent. These taxpayers might howl, but let them. They are only returning to the status quo ante-Thatcher. Besides, their income tax will be lower.

More to the point, this shift need not be achieved by crudely adjusting the local grant figures. By uncapping local taxes, the parliament would empower local councils either to raise local taxes or cut services for make them more efficient. This is precisely the choice that Westminster is now giving Edinburgh. What is sauce for one tier of subsidiarity is sauce for another.

The current debate on question two takes as its premise the claim that local government will always spend more if given half a chance. This is true of

central government (and of some far-left local councils) but not of British local government overall. The Westminster Parliament spent so much in the early 1990s that it is now having to borrow more than ever in its history. Local government spending fell as a share of public expenditure throughout the past two decades except, as Tony Travers of the London School of Economics has shown, when central government decided to cap its expenditure. This was a fiasco. The few extravagant councils spent less, but the numerous thrifty ones felt released from local accountability and spent more.

The iron law of fiscal control is that the closer a democratic entity is to an electorate, the more stingy it will be. The most spendthrift governments are supranational, the United Nations and the European Union. The most parsimonious are the most local. English parishes, like districts in Northern Ireland, are too terrified of their voters to spend their entitlement, even though they are now uncapped. The local levy always lags behind centrally determined taxes.

Scotland is tomorrow embarking on what the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, calls "an adventure". It is only an adventure to the isolated occupants of the British Isles. Constitutional (and fiscal) devolution is practised everywhere else in Europe. Britain's inability to devolve has been a blot on its political escutcheon from Braveheart and Glen-dower to the American colonies and the troubles in Ireland. Devolution is the one ideology that London has never comprehended. Centralist arrogance is embedded in Britain's political elite.

Until this remarkable White Paper, three pence here or there on income tax is not the issue. If the White Paper becomes law, Scottish people will have power to fix their own taxes on property, on public services, on businesses, even on income. Through this they could even achieve what the current debate ignores: the sensation of a cut in income tax north of the border. To do this the Edinburgh parliament need only devolve "tax-varying powers" to its subsidiary local councils. In other words, it must show the same obsequiousness to devolution as, all of a sudden, has Westminster.

Tomorrow, if I were a Scot, I would treat question two as an insult and an irrelevance. I would spoil the ballot paper, except that the answer to question one heralds the most exciting innovation in British government this century.

Simon Jenkins

very good voice but no longer, I am afraid. He is a bit, er, over the hill," the ambassador suggested over a glass of prosecco. "And he also has, how you say, little brain."

Readers of the Mirror may have noticed the smudgy photos of Sunday's funeral. Snappers there, fearing they might be strung up by the crowd if they wielded paparazzi-style telephoto lenses, were issued with small Canon Surestart cameras and passed off as respectable tourists.

Hard times

THESE are testing days for writer Tessa Dahl, the daughter of Roald Dahl and mother of talented young model Sophie. After an eventful decade or two, skipping through a couple of marriages, an affair with Peter Sellers and a flirtation with Hollywood, she is on the verge of bankruptcy.

A notice posted yesterday by the Official Receiver announced that Tessa Donovan had petitioned for bankruptcy. The name dates from her second marriage to Patrick Donovan, an Australian banker. They divorced after 19 months.

Her woes continued this January when she flew to Australia with an Antipodean television presenter, Richard Zachariah, whom she had met over Christmas. She



Brassed off: Tessa Dahl

returned after a month, pleading that "Australia's an awful long way away".

Ms Dahl, 40, has struggled to make her literary mark although two of her books remain in print. One is called *Marilda and the Animals*, a tale about a young girl's fight to liberate zoo animals.

At her London home yesterday, a flustered Ms Dahl said she was in "too much of a rush" to comment until a High Court hearing next week. Her publishers, Puffin, are protective: "All we know is that she is not feeling very well."

P.H.S

Snakeoil, software and Gates

Anatole Kaletsky deconstructs the empire Bill built

Two weeks ago I devoted this column to a light-hearted diatribe against Bill Gates, the world's most successful salesman, and the mayhem caused by his flagship computer software, Windows 95. Although I knew from personal experience that many proficient computer users were as irritated as I was about the unreliability of Microsoft's products, I was surprised by my readers' response.

In my 21 years as a journalist, I had never written an article that generated more letters. And unlike the correspondence provoked by my past campaigns—for example, against Britain's membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism—the response was unanimous. Among the many letters, there was not one from a satisfied user of Windows or other Microsoft products. Of course, a despatch of letters is hardly a reliable gauge of public opinion, but the vehemence of this response suggests that this is an issue worth pursuing, if only because of the pivotal role of the computer industry in the global economic expansion and the bull market in shares around the world.

In the last article I considered the first question that strikes anyone who tries to use a Windows personal computer: why are computers so unreliable and difficult to use? The short answer seemed to be that the computer industry is dominated by two companies: Mr Gates's Microsoft and Intel, which manufactures the microprocessors at the heart of every PC. By constantly changing specifications and adding technical gimmicks which use up ever more of the PC's memory and processing power, these companies keep up the pressure on their customers to invest in new hardware and software. This constant "upgrading", in turn, makes existing systems appear obsolete. Anyone who has tried to get a spare part or hardware driver for a four-year-old computer will know what I mean. "We're running a business here, not a museum," is often the gist of the manufacturer's reply.

Amazingly, computer users meekly bow to this kind of insouciance. Imagine how they would react if Ford or General Motors announced that spare parts would no longer be available for "obsolete" K-registration cars.

The constant churning of computer features and technology is in the interests of the dominant manufacturers for one all-important reason. It prevents technical standards from stabilising, which would lead to dramatic reductions in prices. As I mentioned two weeks ago, this approach is remarkably similar to the strategy adopted by American car manufacturers in the 1960s, when consumers were expected to replace their cars each year to benefit from more powerful engines, even though most of them never drove faster than 70 miles an hour. Unfortunately technological churning also prevents improvements in reliability and quality. Would you feel safe in an aircraft if you knew that Rolls-Royce and Pratt and Whitney were reinventing the jet engine every six months?

Technological churning also prevents the establishment of common standards which would make equipment compatible and allow computers to work seamlessly together. In the way that is taken for granted when we plug in a new television set, CD player or telephone.

In sum, Microsoft and Intel, like General Motors and Ford in the 1960s, have completely skewed the rules of engagement in the computer industry: instead of competing on price, reliability and quality, they have overwhelmed potential competitors with constantly changing gimmicks and claims about "speed" and "power".

The main reason, I think, is that most people who pay for computers—be they company directors, parents or head teachers—know nothing about information technology but think it is frightfully important. They believe computers hold the key to their company's or their school's or their children's future.

So nothing but the best will do. Parents who would not dream of buying their child a £300 bicycle when a second-hand bike will do, feel proud of spending £2,000 instead of £1,000 on the latest 200 MHz Pentium Plus with MMX technology. Heads who are sacking teachers, closing libraries and abandoning school plays for lack of funds, think nothing of spending thousands on multimedia Internet computers. Even finance directors who boast of cutting wages, reducing pensions and abolishing company cars lie down like lambs when the IT department tells them that the company needs to be "future-proofed" by buying workstations that can download animations from Japan, play three-dimensional computer games and show five channels of video all at the same time.

How can this strange behaviour be explained? It seems apposite to draw another comparison: with the American healthcare business before employers started taking serious steps to control their medical costs. The people who buy computers today are driven by the same combination of ignorance, embarrassment, hope and foreboding that turned many Americans into hypochondriacs. Under these circumstances, market forces can fail to perform their normal function of bringing down prices and stabilising standards, as they failed in American healthcare for many years. When people are driven by irrational hopes and fears, they are natural suckers for panaceas. Bill Gates is the latest and most successful in the long history of American snakeoil salesmen.

Booted out

COULD this be the first time a pair of cowboy boots has caused a diplomatic incident? On his most recent visit to London, President Clinton presented Tony Blair with a fine example of Texan footwear.

So enamoured was the soberly dressed Blair of this gift that he has passed it on to Peter Mandelson. The mercurial Minister Without Portfolio has no such sartorial reservations and has padded about in the boots. Indeed, for a man credited with putting Labour into suits, Mandelson now seems to be adopting a more casual image. He paid his respects outside Kensington Palace in a leather jacket, and can often be seen puffing around the streets near his large west London house in gym kit.

When John Major was given a racehorse called Maklat for his 50th birthday in 1993 by the President of Turkmenistan, he elected to leave it in Melton Mowbray (the stabling is below par in Downing Street). The President, a Mr Saparmurad Niyazov, was hurt.

Clinton will be less judgmental with Blair. An Australian MP, a crocodile farmer from the Northern Territory, presented him with

a pair of crocodile boots on a presidential trip down under. With rare restraint, he has eschewed giving them a test drive, restricting himself to loafers.

Brock fast

BED and breakfast is rarely on offer at castles, even those owned by the most impoverished aristocrats. All this will change at Sudeley, the Gloucestershire pad of Henry Dent-Brocklehurst.

The erstwhile playboy is to receive paying guests for "rejuvena-

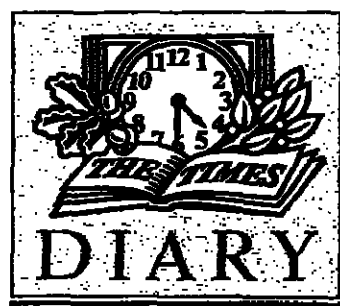
tion weekends" at which jaded city exiles will be fed veggies and fruit juice. With the help of his fiancée, Lili Maltese, he plans to turn the castle into a health farm.

Yoga, which Brocklehurst spent three years studying in Los Angeles, will loom large in visitors' weekends. "Having experimented in my youth looking for the ultimate high through drugs," he confides to *Harpers & Queen*, "I found it aged 28 when I started doing Ashtanga yoga." Humm.

Pity flows as fast as fiction from the heart of Martin Amis. "I feel this pity for non-novelists whenever I come across them," he tells *Esquire* magazine. "How are you going to live in a denuded world when you're just living in it, no longer giving it some shape? Deep energies and... corrosive emotions are involved in writing." But not, it would seem, in reading Amis's excruciating musings.

Square deal

TWENTY years of hard campaigning and French opera fans were thrilled to hear that the Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, was about to rename the Place de l'Alma after Maria Callas, the legendary soprano. A ceremony was planned to mark the twentieth anniversary of her death in 1977. But following



the death of Diana, a movement is underfoot to rename the fashionable square Place Lady Diana. By the Seine, only 100 yards from the Pont Alma, the bridge over the fateful underpass, it has become a memorial to Diana and is filled with flowers.

Not very new Labour. The launch party of Derek Draper's compelling study of Tony Blair's first 100 days will be held at the former Soho home of Karl Marx.

Deep pan

PICK on someone your own size. Your Excellency. Rome's man in London, Paolo Galli, has offered some sharp opinions on his country's bulkiest cultural export, Luciano Pavarotti.

Signor Galli bristled with patrician disdain: "He used to have a



Cowboy style: Clinton



BRIGHTON ROCKED

Adapt or die, trade unionists are told

Time was, not so long ago, when Labour leaders went to the TUC congress to drive a bargain. From their side of the negotiating table, the politicians offered an end to Tory labour laws. From the other, they extracted secret pledges of support for tricky votes at their forthcoming party conference. Tony Blair's message yesterday was that times have changed.

There was no deal to be struck, no barter on offer. Mr Blair does need help to win his party reforms but he was not in a mood to promise concessions to secure it. Indeed, he went out of his way to provoke the more old-fashioned unionists. "I look forward," he said, "to the day I come to the TUC and the phrase 'labour law' is not mentioned."

The message he brought was a simple one: trade unions had to modernise or die. The world of work has changed hugely in the past two decades; so have most British institutions and so has the Labour Party. Only the unions still seem stuck in a 1970s time warp — and not even a fashionable retro version at that. They are still in denial, trying to wish away an economy that is globalised, flexible and uncertain, that values services more than manufacturing, that creates jobs for women more than men. Today's is an economy, as Mr Blair pointed out, which employs more people in design than in the car industry, and sells more rock music abroad than steel.

The Prime Minister was listened to stonily, and applauded politely. To much of the audience, he was saying things that they did not want to hear. But he was right. These changes will not be reversed. Jobs for life will not return. Steel, mining and shipbuilding will never again be great British industries. But others will take their place. And the unions, if they do not transform themselves, will become like a rusted hulk on the Tyne.

In their attitudes, their manner and even their appearance, some of these barons at Brighton could not be more calculated to alienate the very people they need to attract. Why should women, who make up the fastest-growing part of the labour force, want to join unions which are run, almost without exception, by men? Why would the young, also thinly unionised, want to join the ranks of the predominantly middle-aged? Why should the self-employed or those working in small businesses, who have to be flexible and competitive to survive, be attracted by rhetoric that continually casts scorn on those two words?

The unions need to change their attitudes towards employers too. The best have done so already, recognising that only profitable companies can offer good rates of pay, generous working conditions and an expansion in jobs. But, until all unions recognise that their interests are shared with business, not in opposition, employers will have every incentive to ignore them. It is far more attractive to deal directly with employees than to have an oppositionist layer interposing itself between management and staff.

And these days, good companies understand that employees need motivating. Government may lay down minimum standards at work, but the best employers offer far more. These benefits do not need to be extracted, like a poisoned tooth. They are offered freely in the knowledge that both sides of industry gain from employees who are committed and loyal enough to work hard and be productive.

Mr Blair was brave to tell these home truths to his paymasters. He was also in tune with the times: and they would do well to catch up. Rather than being dragged struggling and reluctant into the 21st century, trade unions should learn a lesson from the party they back. Modernisation works.

BETTER IN THAN OUT

Ulster Unionists, not Sinn Fein, are the crucial players

The sight of the Sinn Fein leadership striding into Stormont Castle yesterday will have turned many stomachs. The speed with which Gerry Adams — his pockets freshly filled with American funds — has again moved from outright pariah to international peacemaker is unsettling, if not offensive. Many in Northern Ireland and elsewhere will sense that the IRA's violation of its initial ceasefire and its preceding quarter century of ceaseless carnage has been swept under the carpet. Once bitten does not seem to have made for twice shy.

Despite this, it is now a political fact that Sinn Fein will be present when the talks resume on Monday. It can also be assumed that the IRA will retain its discipline, at least in the short term. John Hume will also be there after his wise decision to forsake a prospective campaign and probable victory in the contest for the Irish Presidency. He has put the peace process ahead of personal prestige. The SDLP will be much the stronger for his sacrifice. The forces of nationalism — constitutional and confrontational — will be represented by a formidable team.

Whether Unionists will be involved in any form remains an open question. For all Mr Adams' posturing it is also the crucial one. It would have been perfectly possible to proceed without Sinn Fein, although that option was often undermined by the actions of London and Dublin. A dialogue conducted without any figures from Ulster's majority community would be an empty exercise. The Democratic Unionists and Robert McCartney's UK Unionists have already opted out. The decision that David Trimble and his Ulster Unionist colleagues will shortly announce is thus of the utmost importance.

A forceful case can be made for a boycott. The IRA's embrace of a second ceasefire is an act of calculation, not conversion. Had the election results in Britain or Ireland returned the incumbent administrations the

republicans might well have intensified the killing rather than abandoned it. The issue of weapons decommissioning may well be sidelined. Unionists could argue that both pure principle and practical politics demand that they unite against participation. All their energy could then be focused on ensuring that an eventual referendum on the charade at Stormont resulted in rejection.

Such sentiments should attract sympathy but they ultimately lack sophistication. The Unionists would exclude themselves entirely from the package of proposals that would be put before their people. It would be an enormous risk to place all their faith in the referendum. In such a poll the British and Irish Governments would be strident champions of an affirmation. International opinion and vast campaign contributions would doubtless be mobilised. Some 40 per cent of the Ulster electorate would be automatically attracted to a settlement. With the prospect of a return to bloodshed as an alternative, the republicans might succeed in blackmailing their way to a majority. Mr Trimble is surely too shrewd to allow the IRA such a free hand over Northern Ireland's future.

The Ulster Unionists should remain at the table but act with caution. Good taste as well as due tactics imply that they should at first avoid direct contact with Mr Adams. The proximity techniques devised during the Dayton deliberations on Bosnia should be deployed in Belfast. Substantial progress may still be made by these means and the sincerity of Sinn Fein can be tested. The decommissioning of terrorist weapons must remain the currency of that trust. As long as the principle of consent — that the final voice is solely that of a majority in the Province — remains cast-iron, then Mr Trimble is better off in than out. If that provision is diluted then he should head for the door. All those with any respect for British democracy and the rule of law should not be far behind him.

BOFFINS IN REVOLT

But all professions suffer from stereotypes

Scientists are steaming their spectacles over their image. At a British Association meeting in Leeds, Dr Helen Haste of Bath University spoke out against stock-in-trade stereotypes. They propagate damaging impressions of the discipline, she said. Mr Spock, the pointy-eared rationalist of the starship *Enterprise*, typecasts the scientist as a coldly calculating dilemma-cruncher, devoid of moral values.

The image of the scientist as a sinister figure, a mad meddler usurping divine powers, goes back as far as Dr Faust. It set the tone of Romantic thinking, of such characters as Mary Shelley's Dr Frankenstein. The theme of experimentation gone awry is carried through into such sinister modern figures as the wheelchair weirdo, Dr Strangelove. But since the dawn of modern science, the age of Bacon, Newton or Galileo, scientists have also been seen as the benefactors of mankind. Modern Merlins, they took over the role of the magician and the priest, predicting, inventing and transforming the world — working real-life miracles. With the birth of science fiction as a literary genre, scientists were often presented as dastardly adventurers, heroes who expanded horizons. But Dr Haste does not like these images either. The implication that science can offer a salvation to man, she says, raises false expectations.

Professions have always had their stereotypes: the ivory-towered poet, the suave-tongued diplomat, the grey-suited civil servant, or the baying hack. Certainly in the late 20th century these standardisations have often been coarsened and simplified into instantly recognisable types. Mass audiences have a briefer attention span. But do scientists really suffer for this?

The laboratory, in reality, can be a muted climate. Experimentation often involves years of repetitive labour with little reward. Portrayal of scientists as latterday explorers, of their work as some wizard wheeze pushing back boundaries of knowledge, can serve as a gentle encouragement to those whose lives may sometimes seem thanklessly dedicated to minutiae which the uninitiated are unwilling or unable to understand. Surely characters such as that of the alluring egghead played by Jodie Foster in the recently released *Contact* or the bulbous-eyed biologist played by Jeff Goldblum in *The Lost World* bring excitement to science's sometimes dry domain.

Rather than deter young people from science, such stereotypes entice them. And anyway, are these images so unreal? History is littered with heroic scientists: Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur and James Lister, to name but a few. The boffins should come out of their laboratories and take a bow.

Media response to funeral of Princess

From Mr Graham Shorter

Sir, Recent events have demonstrated that there yet exists amongst Britons a sense of solidarity, pride and loyalty. Those journalists who compiled the Channel 4 report concerning alleged disputes between the parties organising Saturday's funeral clearly have learnt nothing. The same may be said for those who have since further fuelled the perceived "scandal". What if there were some disagreement? Does it matter?

The sooner journalists cotton on to the distinction between what they think is of interest to the public and what is "in the public interest", the better.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM SHORTER,
26 The Hollows,
Long Eaton, Nottingham.
September 9.

From Mr David Shepherd

Sir, If the offended parties are so anxious to escape the press, and I have every sympathy with them, then they shouldn't invite a photographer to view the burial island.

If they want us to respect their privacy then the least they can do is to respect ours. Quite frankly many of us simply don't want to know.

Yours,
DAVID SHEPHERD,
42 Westland Way,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire.
September 9.

From Mr I. M. H. Kremer

Sir, Who has dictated that it is only the Royal Family who should be afforded protection from a grossly intrusive media?

Yours faithfully,
IVAN KREMER,
Rotherme, The Avenue,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.
September 9.

From Mr Tadeusz Stone

Sir, As I understand it, the "media" includes both television and radio. One wouldn't think so from their "holier than thou" attitude to the press.

I would put programmes such as GMTV, *This Morning* (both ITV) and *The Magazine* (Radio 5) — with their phone-ins, telephone polls and poor taste reporting on Princess Diana and the Royal Family — in the same category as the tabloids.

Yours faithfully,
TAD STONE,
Sevenside House,
Furton, Berkeley, Gloucestershire.
September 9.

From Mr Timothy H. Jones

Sir, The Church of England, and in particular the staff of Westminster Abbey, should be thanked publicly and complimented for the wonderful funeral service held for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Those responsible for arranging the liturgy were able to blend the new with the old in an extraordinarily moving and beautiful way which compromised neither the Anglican Church's traditions nor its time-honoured beliefs.

It is a pity that the media, to some extent, hijacked the occasion in order to highlight the controversial remarks of Lord Spencer when the purpose of the service was an opportunity to heal wounds and point people to God.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY H. JONES,
25-3 Edina Place, Edinburgh 7.

From Mrs Diana Slorick

Sir, In this time of criticism of the press and media we should express our thanks to the BBC for its restraint and sensitivity over the television coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

No prying lenses on the sad faces of the bereaved but dignified and controlled broadcasting, as befits a nation in mourning.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA SLORICK,
67 Royalty Lane,
New Longton, Preston, Lancashire.
September 8.

Renaming airports

From Mrs Elizabeth Nicholson

Sir, If we were to honour all the members of our society who support charitable causes and strike many of the people who meet them as being warm and likeable, but who never actually do anything of particular note, the country would be positively bristling with personalised airports.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH NICHOLSON,
109 Allyn Park, SE21.
September 9.

A new age?

From Mr Nigel Sarjudeen

Sir, Surely an encouraging sign for all those clamouring for the modernisation of the Establishment is the fact that the Prime Minister who read the lesson at Diana's funeral is younger than the pop star who sang.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SARJUDEEN,
134 Rowan Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex.
September 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taxing questions within devolution

From Mr Hugh Craigie Halkett

Sir, I am very pleased to hear that Mr Blair has stated that the Scottish parliament will not use its tax-varying powers, but I am just as puzzled as Mr Nicholas Hinde (letter, September 9; see also letters, September 8) as to how he knows.

Based on Labour's vote at the last election, Labour would be three MSPs short of an overall majority in any new Scottish parliament. As such Labour will have to work with another party if it is to gain control. This party will probably be the Liberal Democrats. Now I know the Liberal Democrats are new Labour by another name, but I was unaware that Tony Blair was their elected leader to speak on their behalf.

What happens if the £14 billion allocated to Scotland is reduced over the next five years? Is Mr Blair trying to tell us that a Scottish parliament would not seek to make up such a shortfall, either by levying a "tartan tax" or by seeking to make companies uncompetitive through the raising of business rates? That hardly seems credible.

The truth of the matter is, as Tony Blair very well knows, no one individual can guarantee that every man, woman and child in Scotland will not be "tartan-taxed" over the next five years — his guarantee is totally worthless.

Fortunately there is one way to guarantee that a Scottish parliament does not tax you for being Scottish — voting "no" to the second question on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CRAIGIE HALKETT
(Managing Director),
H. D. Management,
20 Chester Street, Edinburgh 13.
September 9.

From Mr Frank Spencer-Nairn

Sir, In the final hours of the referendum campaign the supporters of devolution are arguing that their opponents are not prepared to trust the people of Scotland and that democracy will decide in the future whether Scotland is satisfied with devolution or prefers to proceed towards separation and independence. This naive approach is flawed.

The problem is that the democratic choice of the people will in the future be heavily influenced by the inherent instability of a devolved parliament. The proposals are a recipe for conflict, recrimination and stalemate whenever the UK Government is of a different

political disposition to the Scottish executive. It will be only a matter of time before a new wave of nationalism will favour independence.

I do not believe Scotland needs 129 more politicians with extra bureaucracy, infrastructure and costs, and a taxation bill to go with it; nor does Scotland need the muddle and ambiguity of a two-tier system of national government when it has recently done away with two-tier local government for the same reasons.

Instead let's make our existing 72 MPs work harder to earn their keep, and devise a system where they do more of their work in Scotland and devote more time to debating issues and passing Scottish legislation in Scotland, but within the framework of a United Kingdom Parliament.

Yours,
FRANK SPENCER-NAIRN,
Culligan,
Struy, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire.
September 9.

From Mr William M. Ballantine

Sir, Anything other than a high turnout, coupled to a large "yes" vote in Scotland on Thursday, will be a defeat for the pro-devolutionists. They have been claiming, for years, that we Scots are massively in favour of it and that it is "the settled will of the Scottish people", yet now they are running scared because apathy may, after all, play a major part in proceedings (as some of us predicted).

The fact that taxpayers' money has had to be spent urging people to go and vote at all, coupled to the fact that the Labour Party is having to send its big guns north this week, speaks volumes.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALLANTINE,
47 The Quarryknoves,
Dean Road, Boness, West Lothian.
September 8.

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, Before the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists vote in their referendums can I pray they will carefully assess what has been achieved by nationalism in this century and what has been destroyed — in Ireland and Spain, Israel and South Africa, Serbia and Croatia, Germany and Iran — the list is endless.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.
September 9.

Red tape still rules

From Mr Michael Lewis

Sir, I was recently invited to speak at a major Russian conference at Moscow State University and at the British Council in St Petersburg.

After endless earlier difficulties with the paperwork, I stood in the visa queue at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in London for three hours with a group of distinguished scientists, only to have the door slammed in our face with no explanation or apology. I cancelled my visit.

When I informed the conference organisers, they asked me to complain publicly with all the force at my command, as they are having increasing difficulty in getting speakers to visit, and always for the same reason — the bureaucracy, unhelpfulness and rudeness of the staff of the embassy.

Is it official Russian policy to discourage visits from those of us who would like to share our knowledge, experience and expertise without payment?

Yours sincerely,
M. A. LEWIS,
39 Coombe Lea,
Grand Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex.
September 8.

Pollution of the oceans

From Lord Melchett,
Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, Your editorial on the discharge of toxic waste into the seas around Britain ("Out of the Ocean", September 3; see also report, "Britain gives up right to dump nuclear waste at sea", same day) says that science on endocrine disrupters chemicals mimicking the behaviour of human hormones — "remains as yet too sketchy".

All the North-East Atlantic countries, including the UK, are committed by Article 2 of the Oslo and Paris Convention to the "precautionary principle" under which action should be taken "... when there are reasonable grounds for concern [that chemicals] may bring about hazards to human health ... even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between the inputs and the effects".

There are safe alternatives to most of the chemicals suspected or proven to be endocrine disrupters. These could be used at little or no extra cost. For example, there are alternatives to virtually every use of PVC — a plastic which releases endocrine-disrupting dioxins to the environment during production and incineration, and often contains other endocrine disrupters such as some of the phthalates (plastic softeners).

You say that "precipitate action here

Vultures' return

From Mr James Wilde

Sir, I read with interest your report (August 27) that the bearded vulture *Cypaetus barbatus* has bred successfully in the French Alps. This is exciting news and it is to be hoped the experiment continues to be successful.

This year during one week at the end of May my wife and I counted six of these birds, including three immatures, at various sites in the Spanish Pyrenees — a greater number than we have seen on all our previous trips to the region. That the bird is increasing its numbers in the Pyrenees is a triumph for the Spanish ornithological community, who keep an active watch on the welfare of the birds.

There are those who question the wisdom of trying to turn the clock back by reintroducing species to regions they once inhabited. But the fact that this majestic bird, often with a wingspan exceeding 9ft, is soaring once again over the high alps will lift the spirits of conservationists everywhere.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WILDE,
20 Florida Fields,
Castle Cary, Somerset.
August 28.

to reduce the amount of chemicals reaching the sea) could easily cost billions of pounds".

We know of no evidence to support this assertion. You highlight the cost of action, but fail to consider the cost of inaction.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas, N1.

From Ms Elizabeth Salter

Sir, You state that the science surrounding endocrine disrupters is still "too sketchy" to be sure any damage is being done.

Must we wait to see the effects of mass infertility or behavioural abnormalities in both animals and human beings before action is taken? We are already seeing dramatic evidence of such effects in the bald eagle population of the Great Lakes, among other species.

The UK Government's decision to reduce the discharge of hazardous chemicals into the sea, as well as giving up its right to dump nuclear waste, is a welcome first step. I and my colleagues at the World Wide Fund for Nature look forward to contributing to a plan of action with all interested parties — government and industry — to implement this decision.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SALTER
(Pollution Officer), WWF-UK,
Panda House, Weymouth Park,
Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey.
September 4.

Author's review of our 'brainstorm'

From Mr David A. Gemmell

Sir, After writing 22 novels over 13 years I was a little disheartened to find that the first review to appear in *The Times* (Director, September 6) — a review that attacks me for becoming dull — is for a story I had no part in creating.

Your excellent reviewer, Donald Watt, was in fact reviewing *Polgara the Sorceress* by David and Leigh Eddings, not "David and Leigh Gemmell".

My new novel, *Echoes of the Great Song*, is published early next month. Perhaps Donald Watt might take a look at it to see whether Gemmell still writes "taut, exciting adventures".

As an ex-journalist I do appreciate how such brainstorming occurs. After a mistake of mine back in the 1960s the following correction appeared in the next week's edition of the *Acton Gazette*:

Due to an error in the preparation of last week's *Gazette* two photographs were transposed. We apologise to Cllr Ray ... for suggesting he was a vegetable, and to allotment owner Mr Bernard ... whose prize-winning carrot did not make a speech at Faraday School prizegiving.

All the best,
DAVID A. GEMMELL,
8 Old Mill Park, Hastings, Sussex.
delnoch@compuserve.com
September 7.

Arts for everyone

From the Acting Secretary-General of the Arts Council of England

Sir, I was very pleased to read Richard Morrison's passionate endorsement of the benefits which people gain from participating in the arts (article, Arts, September 5). As he points out, Arts for Everyone (A4E) has had an enormous galvanising effect, enabling thousands of people to enjoy creative activities they otherwise might not have explored. I would, however, take issue with him on the reason that the Arts Council created A4E.

It had nothing to do with any criticism for "stuffing £78 million of lottery cash into the pockets of those destined" at Covent Garden. As one of the people who developed the scheme (before I joined the Arts Council), I can say quite confidently that it arose from a genuine wish to extend the Arts Council's sphere of activity and to enable as many people as possible to have the experiences that Mr Morrison so eloquently describes.

Yours sincerely,
G. DEVLIN,
Acting Secretary-General,
Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.
September 8.

Ask a silly question ...

From Mr Andrew Baskerville

Sir, At a job interview in 1991 I was asked not what piece of furniture I wished to be (Mr Peter Gordon's letter, September 1), but what sort of animal.

We had to reply immediately and give it very little thought. I replied "A horse", and on being asked to be more specific "A racehorse". To my knowledge the replies from the other two candidates were a hawk and a sheep-dog.

I don't know how much importance was attached to these answers but it may be of note that I was the successful applicant.

It would be interesting to know if my employers, during the time I have worked for them, feel the analogy is accurate.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BASKERVILLE,
57 St Leonards Avenue, Stafford.
andyb@globalnet.co.uk

From Mr J. Parkin

Sir, At my first ever interview in 1959 I was asked: "How many lamp posts are there between your home and here?" My reply was: "I really don't know, Sir, but it's important to my application. I will go back and count them."

I got the job.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARKIN,
1 Spennow Close,
Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire.
September 2.

From Colonel Oliver Lindsay

Sir, At the final interviews for the Foreign Office exams in the late 1950s my brother was asked what he knew about the Dead Sea Scrolls. Another candidate was asked to identify his greatest weakness. "Overmodesty," he promptly replied.

Both failed.
Yours unexamined,
OLIVER LINDSAY,
Brookwood House,
Brookwood, nr Woking, Surrey.

From Mrs Janet Balchin

Sir, It should not matter what piece of furniture Mr Gordon's son chooses to be as long as he fulfils the ideals set down by William Morris: "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Yours faithfully,
JANET BALCHIN,
Hullbrook Cottage,
Cranleigh Road, Ewhurst, Surrey.
September 1.

[illegible]

GENERAL SIR JOHN HACKETT

JENNY JEGER

Derek Taylor is survived by his wife, Joan, and their three daughters and three sons.

DEREK TAYLOR

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

STATE OF BRITISH CROPS

Bedfordshire. — Reports from this county state that quite half the corn crops are grown out; that shocks of wheat "are grown together as one sheaf" (Flitwick); that "all the corn is growing standing"; that there will be no "malting barley"; that 20 per cent of the wheat is sown and the rest is in very bad

ON THIS DAY

September 10, 1912

Bad harvest prospects prompted The Times to undertake a special report, of which this was part of the third article, on the state of the crops in England.

condition (Biggleswade); that hundreds of acres of grassland are under water (Bedford); that peas, which were a good crop, are spoiled, and that potato disease is very bad in all parts of the country.

In Cambridgeshire, near Ely, only a fraction of the corn was sown on the 1st, and no one can estimate the damage; at Wisbech "the position is now absolutely hopeless"; winter oats are mostly staked, and about half the wheat (Childerley Gate); about three-quarters of the wheat was harvested before rain came, but the crop is damaged to the extent of 15 per cent (Royston). Monday, August 26, will never be forgotten, as land not

subject to floods is now flooded 2ft deep, and the usual occupation of the men is getting the sheaves out of the water. Wheat and oats are all matted together, and none of it now will be fit for seed. Barley is not quite so bad, but bad enough. Potatoes have been under water for days, and many of them will hardly be worth taking up. There are some fair crops on the drier lands, but, taken altogether, the outlook is hopeless."

is hopeless.

From Norfolk (King's Lynn) we are informed that the barley, oats, peas, and potatoes are all spoiled, and that the district is "devastated". 7,341n of rain having fallen in one day. The barley is said to be ruined. At Thetford harvest work was in a state of chaos, and what corn is carted must be in very bad condition.

Across the Wash, in South Lincolnshire, at Spalding, wheat is badly "chitted" in stooks; acres of potatoes "will not require picking"; peas are bad, but spring beans are said to be very good. From the neighbourhoods of Lincoln, Boston, Long-Sutton, Louth, Grantham, and Wainfleet the same wretched reports have arrived.

In Essex wheat is reported as all stacked. Our Southminster correspondent adds: "This part of Essex was practically rainless from the end of March to August 17."

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The press watchdog needs new rules of conduct

The time has come to draw a line on privacy

Once, a long time ago, when David Mellor was a politician in power, he famously remarked that the press was "drinking at the Last Chance Saloon". Until now it has appeared that drinking time for the press was going to be extended indefinitely and that last orders had been called only for Mr Mellor.

It is so no longer. Saturday's funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, could easily have been the natural, melancholy end of a week of national mourning with few lasting consequences for the press, so long as editors showed a degree of sensitivity during the next few months and left Prince William and Prince Harry alone.

Instead, the sheer emotional impact of the occasion and its transmission to more than half the country has clearly made it a defining moment for the future of the press. No matter that Earl Spencer's sharpest attacks were reserved for the monarchy and how it has behaved, the indictment of the press was just as keenly felt and virulently expressed.

The arguments of a week ago over what exact proportion of blame should be shared between paparazzi and a driver who drove too fast and may have drunk too much seem already historic, and it is of little importance whether Earl Spencer's comments were either balanced or wholly fair.

Events have dictated that action is now required. But what form should it take? The promises of individual editors that they will no longer print intrusive paparazzi pictures is a step in the right direction; but does not go far enough. Editors change, memories can fade and in an intensely competitive newspaper market there is always the temptation for one paper to break ranks for financial advantage. The same applies to proprietors, however well meaning or distinguished.

At the other extreme it would be equally unfortunate if the present public distaste for the activities of some newspapers should lead to the imposition of privacy legislation. Of course, such a thing would be possible, even though there is little evidence around the world of such laws being effective.

The Privacy Bill 1997, should anyone try to introduce one, would have to wrestle simultaneously with subjective definitions of what should be private and what should not, and what exceptions there should be in the public interest. Just try for a moment drawing up on the back of an envelope a watertight legal definition of what constitutes the public interest.

Perhaps the strongest argument against privacy legislation is a very practical one. Unless legal aid is available to launch such

lawsuits, and that seems very unlikely, then only the rich and famous will be able to protect their privacy. The danger would be that all the shortcomings of the English legal system, not all equally versed in concepts of freedom of information, would have even greater powers over what we can see and hear. One legal remedy that might be explored is using the existing laws of trespass and stalking against the more determined of the paparazzi.

It may seem, in current heightened emotional circumstances, a pathetically inadequate response, but the future really should continue to belong to Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, and the continuation of strengthened self-regulation. The PCC has worked. Complaints are quickly dealt with and the commission has been successful as an honest broker between newspapers and those who feel aggrieved, except perhaps on a few high-profile occasions.

As Lord Wakeham made clear yesterday, self-regulation has also worked in the past to protect the Princes from harassment. The newspaper industry agreed that, apart from occasional photocalls, photographers would not haunt their school days, and that has been respected.

The task now is to draw up new rules, for incorporation in the PCC code of practice, to limit intrusive photography for all of the media. It will not be easy. What after all constitutes a paparazzi photograph? To argue that no picture should ever be published without the consent of its subject, even if taken in a public place, would simply emasculate the media — television as well as newspapers and magazines.

Editors will in future have to take a view on how a picture was obtained, as well as simply judging its editorial merits. The greatest abuse is not usually a single picture but a pattern of relentless hounding of the sort complained of by Earl Spencer. Those who behave in such a way should be identified and their work rejected by the entire British newspaper industry.

The task now is to find new rules that the newspaper industry can collectively embrace to stamp out such manifest unfairness. Their readers, the British public, now expect no less. It is not only good morality, it is also good business, because it is unlikely that papers that ignore the spirit of the times will continue to flourish.

If action is not rapidly forthcoming, time really could be called in the Last Chance Saloon — and the press would thoroughly deserve it.



RAYMOND SNODDY

The people led, we followed

Tony Hall believes the BBC must learn a lesson from last week — let the people speak

It began as the tragic death of a popular figure, with implications for the paparazzi, the media and perhaps the monarchy. Exactly the kind of story that requires the gathering of evidence and the views of experts. But a few hours into the day it was clear that the real story was outside the studio, on the streets, in the extraordinary response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

And the difficulty, frankly, is that for the most part the media did not understand her significance to people. Why should we? Journalists like facts. Who, what, when and where: that's the mantra for every fresh-faced recruit to our profession. Our job is to gather those facts, form them into a coherent report and get them on air. Audiences are supposed to be listening to us, not the other way round.

The BBC is wedded to the notion of accurate reporting, making sense of a story through marshalling specialist knowledge; this is at the core. But last week we learnt a tough lesson. We learnt that emotion has its political dimension, that by giving voice on our airwaves to "ordinary" individuals' thoughts and feelings, we could get at some kind of truth, which would otherwise elude us, no matter how many facts we assembled.

When I received the first call at 1am on that Sunday, my first thoughts were about the sheer mechanics of going on air at the quietest time in the quietest month, with a story unfolding on foreign soil. And how to get it right for every BBC News outlet, including the World Service.

The experts, the commentators, the political leaders were being filmed for their responses, the vox pops were starting to make it on air.



A television journalist interviews a boy outside Kensington Palace before the funeral as crowds gather

Then I realised that something else was going on: people were articulating something that was quite new.

We heard from all kinds of people, of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientation and social background. And the way they expressed themselves was highly cogent. This was a lesson for me. We must make sure that this diversity of voice stays in our programming.

For some, it was tempting to dismiss the outpourings of emotion as hysteria, tempting, even, to cave into the accusation that we, along with the tabloid press, might even have been orchestrating it by clearing our schedules for continuous coverage.

There was, of course, a symbiotic relationship between us and the public: many would not have known that Kensington

Palace was Diana's principal residence but, seeing the crowds gathering there to lay flowers, more followed. As we showed the queue outside St James's Palace, viewers learnt where they could go to pay their respects. When bouquets appeared at Harrods, others, seeing them on TV, followed.

But the truth is, this was a genuinely demonic week. We were following the story, not making it. Our role is to explain, but we needed to do what comes before explanation and that was to understand what Diana was: an icon to a huge section of the population who, knowing of her compassion and seeing her suffering, identified with her.

Of course, without the public exposure given to her, this status could never have been achieved. That is what we had to explain when our crews were criticised by angry mourners

who believed that all journalists were paparazzi, hounding their prey for snatched photos.

A newspaper journalist was overheard bemoaning the fact that we were awash with what he dismissed as "little-people stories". What arrogance. The debate about the appropriate coverage of the Princess has had one welcome outcome. All of us in positions of editorial responsibility are now, as never before, held accountable by the public for our decisions. We should be glad of it. When people don't care, we're really in trouble.

There are lessons in all of this for politicians who seek to lead us, and journalists who seek to reflect and explain what's going on in the world. We have reason to envy her. It seems that Diana made a connection with people, that

very thing we use focus groups to help us to achieve. In a world of niche marketing and media fragmentation, it seems there is as much to join us as to divide us.

On Tuesday night, I went to Kensington Palace and read the cards on the floral tributes. I was moved and learnt something. It has not yet been decided what to do with the books of condolence that so many have signed. In a way they form a kind of mass observation record of a country suddenly trying to find an expression for its feelings.

As broadcasters, we should be reading them. They may help us to make sense of the matters that lie so far beyond the knowledge of commentators — what is important to people, what moves them, and what they value.

● The author is the Chief Executive of BBC News.

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Jeremy Sutton-Pratt
Arthritis and Rheumatism Council
PO Box 177, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7TQ
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The closing date for completed applications is 29 September 1997 and interviews will follow about ten days later.



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Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, left, pictured during an Adriatic holiday before his abdication; Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor were considered prime targets



Shots of Princess Margaret smoking were met with outrage

Dawn of the paparazzi

Even before Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said yesterday that Prince William and Harry must not be hounded by the media, newspapers had been falling over themselves to outlast paparazzi.

In the wake of Earl Spencer's scorching attack on the press Lord Rothermere announced that he had ordered his editors at the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard* not to use paparazzi pictures. *The Express* has said the same. *The Independent* said it might not even attend official Buckingham Palace photo-calls.

The pronouncements sound grand but in reality are simplistic. *The Mail* and *The Express* defined paparazzi as freelance photographers who specialise in snatching pictures of famous people. What has upset the public are intrusive pictures and the methods used to take them. Such pictures can just as easily be taken — and have been taken — by newspapers' own photographers.

Conversely, Richard Young, *The Express*'s star celebrity photographer, works on a freelance basis. It is known as the "king of the paparazzi," brought out a book called *Paparazzo* and rides a motorbike. But I have seen him greeted as a friend by many famous people — and he is hardly likely to be barred by *The Express* for hounding them.

The relationship between celebrities and the camera has always been uneasy. **Damian Whitworth reports**

Not only is it difficult to pigeon-hole some photographers, but it is crucial to remember that what constitutes an intrusive picture cannot be set in stone. The short, but controversial, history of photographing famous people has shown that what was greeted with howls of outrage at one time now seems utterly tame. Unauthorised shots of royals are not new. In 1936 a picture of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson on holiday in the Adriatic before the abdication caused a storm.

Sir Edward Pickering, the former editor of the *Daily Express* and now executive vice-chairman of Times Newspapers, recalls the public reaction when a picture of the Queen, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Queen Mary at the funeral of George VI was used on the front page of the *Express*. "I was managing editor at the time and there was outrage. I thought I was going to be thrown in jail. But that was a photograph of a public event in a public place."

When Reginald Davis, who was one of the original British royal photographers, started accompanying the family on trips abroad from the late Fifties he would be invited to take up a position at premieres or on the way in and out of events. He was

called "our Christmas tree" by the Duke of Edinburgh because he was covered in cameras and flash lights.

However, according to Desmond O'Neill, who took his first royal photographs as a teenager in 1939, it did not take other photographers long to catch on that there was money to be made. "Reg Davis was the first one to follow the royals. But then others saw that he was getting good pictures which were being used everywhere and joined in."

"Back then Princess Margaret was the great target. Pictures of her smoking caused outrage," says O'Neill. And editors were still very careful. "In 1963 I got a picture when the Queen's dress blew up at Wellington and showed a small portion of her slip. No one would use it at the time."

Another deterrent was the summary justice meted out to photographers in the style of today's more pugnacious film stars. "I saw Princess Margaret's detective thump a French photographer on the jaw when he was trying to take a photograph. He just came up and walloped him," says O'Neill.

Before the cameramen grew bolder, film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Brigitte Bardot were their prime victims. At

first the stars' publicists would set up photo-calls on a beach but then more and more photographers would attend.

As the quality of colour printing improved and the number of magazines multiplied, hordes turned up. Demand for pictures encouraged shots to be taken of celebrities caught unawares. Fellini coined the term "paparazzi" for those who specialised in such shots in *La Dolce Vita*.

Barry Swaab, who started taking pictures of royals and famous people 40 years ago, says that the rapidly improving technology of the Sixties considerably aided the growth of the paparazzi. "The cameras got so much smaller and the lens better. It became much easier."

Pressure grew on staff photographers and those with respected agencies when they returned with pictures taken in their allotted positions to be met by picture editors asking why they didn't have shots taken by freelancers from more interesting, unapproved angles.

Davis says, however, that such bun fights were as nothing compared to what happened when Princes Charles and Lady Diana

Spencer announced their engagement. "That was the turning point. That was an event that didn't involve snatched pictures, but I gave up after that."

"I had never climbed a ladder to take a picture. Occasionally I would be passed a chair to get a shot of the Queen's carriage on the way to the opening of Parliament but nowadays the photographers are like window cleaners with automatic cameras. Anybody could be a photographer."

He believes that the shots that contributed more than any other to the present crisis were the infamous photographs of the Duchess of York having her toes sucked by her "financial adviser", John Bryan. They were taken by a paparazzo who crawled through undergrowth and endured a long stakeout. "That was a watershed. That was the start of it and then it progressed. It was open season after that."

The idea, however, that the more distant past was simply a more gentlemanly, respectful age is not altogether true. Reg Davis spent several hours one day in 1979 photographing Sophia Loren at Versailles. As they left in his car two other cars pulled out of the car park and pursued them at speed back to Paris. "They chased us through a long tunnel on the way back. The difference was they weren't on motorbikes. But that has given me some thoughts recently."

Does Diana rank as the story of the century?

When the biggest news stories break, journalists tend instinctively to react first as news editors and only seconds later as human beings. That may be unfair perhaps unlike other people we do both simultaneously, reacting with shock and grief but also immediately planning what should go in the paper. That was certainly the experience of every journalist when the news broke in the early hours of August 31.

Since then, no story this century has commanded so much space in British newspapers or newspapers across the world. On that count alone, beyond its emotional and tragic impact or its ability within Britain to rouse a nation against a monarchy seemingly out of step with its subjects, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales has undoubtedly been the biggest news story of the century.

But was it the most significant? Within newsrooms, it has sparked a debate about which news stories have had the same impact on editors and readers.

We all have our own candidates. Within my adult lifetime, the stories that stand out in the memory are the Queen's coronation in 1953, Suez in 1956 and (after I became a journalist) Churchill's funeral, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, Watergate, the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, the fall of the Berlin wall and Nelson Mandela's release.

Those are stories with a global impact. Among the British candidates must be the Aberfan disaster, the Falklands and Gulf wars, Hungerford, Lockerbie, Durrani and several IRA bombs.

That, however, ignores half the century. *The Times*, then a much smaller newspaper, devoted as big a proportion of its space to Queen Victoria's death in 1901 as it did last week to the death of Princess Diana — as did the *Daily Mail* to the flight across the Channel by Bletiot.

On a worldwide rating,

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

candidates for the some of the other greatest stories of the century have to include the sinking of the *Titanic* and the Lusitania, the storming of the Winter Palace, the end of the First World War, the Reichstag fire in 1933, the

Second World War (the declaration, the greatest day of the Battle of Britain, Pearl Harbour, victory at Alamein, D-Day or VE Day are all candidates), the first atom bombing, at Hiroshima, the building of the Berlin wall.

BIGGEST STORIES OF THE CENTURY

WORLD

- ☐ Sinking of Lusitania
- ☐ End of First World War
- ☐ The Wright Brothers
- ☐ The Reichstag fire
- ☐ Pearl Harbour
- ☐ Assassination of Kennedy
- ☐ Fiftieth anniversary of Man on the Moon
- ☐ Fall of the Berlin Wall

BRITAIN

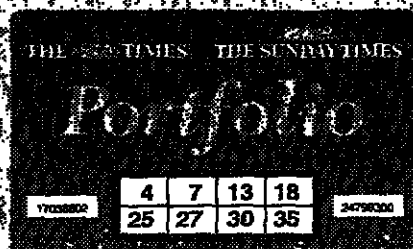
- ☐ Death of Queen Victoria
- ☐ Sinking of *Titanic*
- ☐ November 11, 1918
- ☐ Abdication of Edward VIII
- ☐ Battle of Britain
- ☐ Suez crisis
- ☐ Charles/Diana wedding
- ☐ Falklands war
- ☐ Durrani massacre
- ☐ Death of Princess Diana

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CHANGING TIMES

NEWS

Join real world, Blair tells unions

The Prime Minister told the trade unions in stark terms that they must cast aside their dogmas and join the real world if they were to have a role in creating a modern enterprise Britain. He made it plain that union leaders had no automatic influence over a Labour Government and told them that they risked being left behind unless they came to terms with the challenges of a more competitive world. Page 1

Woman wins damages for marital rape

A wife has made legal history by successfully suing her husband for damages after he raped her. She was awarded £14,000 in what experts describe as a ground-breaking case. Husbands have been successfully criminally prosecuted for raping their wives, but lawyers believe this is the first time that a civil action for rape has been won. Page 1

Whitehall press purge

A purge of senior Government information officers has begun in Whitehall after some Cabinet Ministers asked for a review of press arrangements. Page 1

Princess coach crash

The Queen sent a message of sympathy to the families of two women killed and 47 other people injured after their coach crashed while travelling to London to pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales. Pages 1 & 7

Sinn Féin promise

After three decades of republican violence, Sinn Féin yesterday formally renounced the use of force to achieve political ends. Page 2

Rugby star accused

Former England rugby star John Hall put his hand down a woman's trousers during a hard-drinking celebration, a court was told. Page 3

Call of the sea

Undertaken by a shipwreck that nearly cost them their lives, the Schinas family is taking to the ocean again with a fifth crew member — a two-week-old baby girl. Page 5

Devolution challenge

William Hague fought back against Tony Blair's devolution plans, saying that a Scottish parliament was a "dangerous trap" which would prise apart the United Kingdom. Page 8

Red cards at the Red Lion

Public houses could be forced to close under a penalty points scheme aimed at cutting drink-related violence to be launched this month, the Government announced. The "totting up" system, similar to that operating for motoring offences, would hit licensees who fail to keep order or allow under-age and after-hours drinking. Page 2

Flooding legacy

Black pools of evil-smelling water on the Somerset Levels still disfigure one of Britain's most fragile landscapes, five weeks after the summer floods. Page 11

Dangerous Spock

Mr Spock, the ice-cold rationalist of the starship Enterprise, is doing a disservice to science, a psychologist told the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Page 12

Secret Israeli talks

In an attempt to break the deadlock between Israel and Syria, a senior adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, held "secret talks" in Europe before the arrival today of Madeleine Albright. Page 13

New Chinese leader

The Chinese Communist Party has been unable to suppress signals that the next Prime Minister will be Zhu Rongji. Page 14

Siege broken

British troops helped to break a siege of Banja Luka's central Bosna Hotel, escorting politicians loyal to Radovan Karadzic, the war crimes suspect. Page 15

Collusion allegation

The ANC and South Africa's white Government colluded in abducting the main witness against Winnie Mandela in the Stompie Seipei case, says a new book. Page 15



Humphrey Ocean with his portrait of Tony Benn which was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery and will be unveiled tonight

BUSINESS

PIA chief goes: The Government's plan for a single financial services regulator claimed a scalp as Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, said she is standing down. Page 25

Inflation: The headline rate rose to a two year high in August but underlying inflation fell back. The City is convinced that interest rates will not rise. Page 25

Coal warning: RJB Mining, which is closing the Asfordby pit, has said that thousands more jobs could go if the Government does not support clean coal technology. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 34.7 to 4950.5. The Sterling index rose to 100.4 from 100.1, rising from \$1.5823 to \$1.5895 and from DM2.8646 to DM2.8791. Page 28

SPORT

England recall: Angus Fraser, 32, the most dependable seam bowler of his generation, was recalled to the 16-strong England party to tour the West Indies. Page 48

Football: England will try to focus their energies on a World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova that once would have been routine but is now far from that. Page 48

Chairman's support: Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has given his personal support to a two-division county championship. Page 43

Tennis: Three Britons out of four reached the second round of the Samsung Open in Bournemouth for the loss of only one set between them. Page 46

ARTS

Liddle of the Lake: Jimmy McGovern, riding high after *Cracker* and the *Hillsborough* documentary, has a new drama series starting on BBC TV about culture clashes in the Lake District. Page 32

Swedish delight: The Proms enjoyed a fine night of Romantic music from the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. On the South Bank an early music festival explored an intriguing theory about Handel's *Water Music*. Page 32

Hot tickets: Critics of *The Times* select the best theatre, music, exhibitions, films and dance of the autumn. Page 33

Blue pencil-pushing: At the Ambassadors Theatre *The Censor* is a racy attack on those who wield the blue pencil. Page 34

FEATURES

New religion: Where once people in distress turned to religion, now they turn to therapy. Page 16

Nigella Lawson: Public show versus private emotion: why death is so shocking to modern values; superstition behind shrines; shopping-list condolences. Page 16

Mother Teresa: Is it arrogant to presume that though a body of knowledge exists, you do not need to use it? Anna Sebba wonders whether the care the nun provided was the right kind. Page 17

MEDIA

People power: The BBC must take to heart the lesson it learnt from the Princess's death — to listen to the people, says Tony Hall, Chief Executive of BBC News. Page 22

Who's who: How can you outlast paparazzi photographs when no one is sure just who or what is a paparazzo. Page 23

HOMES

Diplomatic: Could you let your home or flat to members of an embassy? Page 41

THE PAPER

Madeleine Albright cannot untangle the problems of the Middle East in one visit. But if she fails to budge anyone, the decline of the peace effort and erosion of American leadership could quickly get worse. — *The New York Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

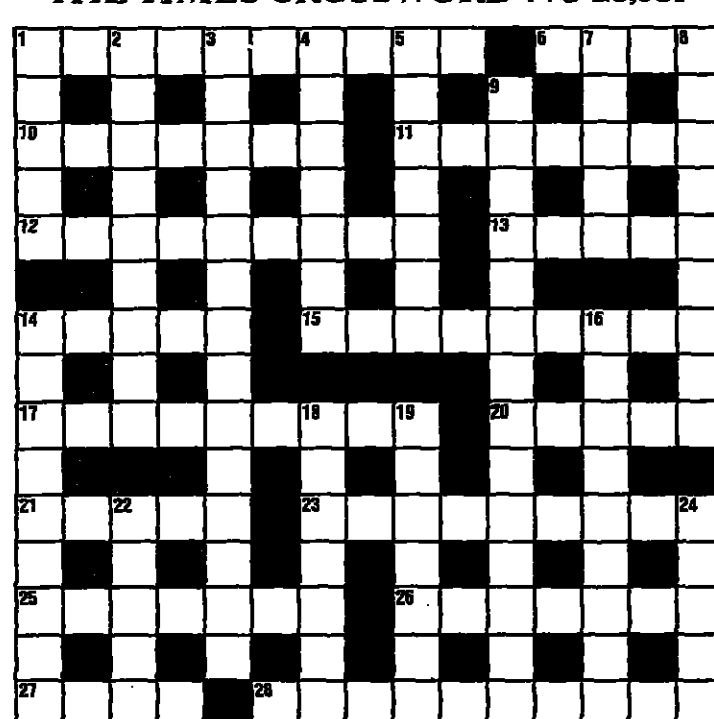
TRAVEL
How cricketers are pitching in to attract England fans to the West Indies

FILMS
Geoff Brown finds *Air Force One*, with Harrison Ford, to be old-fashioned fun



ADRIAN MURRELL/ALL SPORT

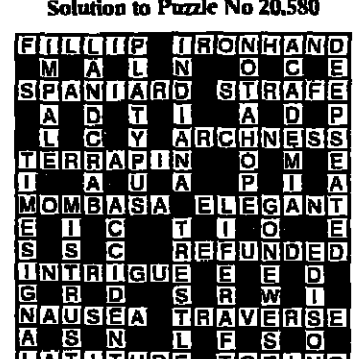
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,581



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 39% of the contestants in the 1997 Times Crossword Championship.

- ACROSS**
- No fan of Lenin's initial comment on Trotsky's letter? (10).
 - Hits back in quirel (4).
 - Sun god's found here — associated with oral legend (7).
 - Where napkin goes is somewhat obscure (7).
 - One getting blame brooded about limit to self-esteem (9).
 - The South appears to lose vital forces when team invades (5).
 - Sat on bronco's back here? (5).
 - Supposed originator of dance craze (9).
 - New York speed cops initially reported Bowery girl? (4,5).
 - There's nothing in marble to blend with metals (5).
 - One formed in smelting others? (5).
 - A fortune might be made playing this (5,4).
- DOWN**
- Grounds for university to withhold minimal payment for writer (5).
 - To deal effectively with father I would interrupt little boy (3,4,2).
 - Going about on the highway with Turpin not there to disturb (5,4).
 - City porter's to carry on to the end (4,3).
 - Gunnman is finally brought before the back (7).
 - Noise from company's plant (5).
 - One way spelt in test — you've a long way to go here (9).
 - Common feature of *The Times* and *The Guardian* — but not *Punch* (7,7).
 - So treated, weren't it right initially? (9).
 - Composer penned in without guidance, lacking experience in any form (9).
 - Swag taken by Australian liar (7).
 - Woman's diamonds, perhaps, delivered soundly with many locks on (7).
 - Hot soup giving a lot of pain in the mouth (5).
 - It can be boring to a daughter, 17 (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,580



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THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Donald Dewar on why 'yes' is best for Scotland
PAGE 29



HOMES
New houses help to restore a mining valley's fortunes
PAGE 41



SPORT
Fallon going flat out for jockeys' title
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

Financial regulation turmoil ahead of announcement of new 'super-SIB' team

Bowe resigns from PIA and spurns Newro

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Government's plan to set up a single financial services regulator claimed its first senior victim yesterday as Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, announced she would not be applying for any of the top jobs and would be leaving the PIA in the new year.

Her statement stunned the financial services industry, coming less than two months before Howard Davies, executive chairman of what has come to be known as Newro, is due to announce his management team.

Industry sources said Ms Bowe's departure increased the likelihood that the position of chief executive will now go to Andrew Winckler, who holds the post at the Securities and Investments Board, the body that oversees the three frontline regulators, including the PIA. Michael Foot, executive director of banking supervision at the Bank of England, is believed to be in line for head of supervision. An amiable career regulator, he survived the heavy criticism of the Bank's role in allowing Barings to collapse in 1994, in spite of being in charge of the regulation of the merchant bank.

Supervision and enforcement are considered to be the most important of the five divisions that will be created at Newro. The others are authorisation, consumer relations and policy.

A PIA spokesman said none

of the jobs on offer at Newro offered the challenge that Ms Bowe wanted. Ms Bowe, 50, who was SIB's director of investment management and public affairs for six years before taking the reins at the PIA in 1994, said she had greatly enjoyed the challenge of the PIA.

Ms Bowe earned £160,000 and a £20,000 bonus in the last financial year and is on a 12-month contract. In her three-year tenure she earned a reputation as being strong on policy but weak on operational management.

In March the House of Commons all-party Treasury committee criticised her for the PIA's slowness in resolving the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal which is believed to have affected up to 1.5 million people. In addition, the PIA's pension unit has been attacked for being slow in dealing with more than 40,000 mis-selling cases from defunct independent financial advisers. Since May Ms Bowe has come under strong pressure from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, to speed up the pensions review. Ms Liddell has regularly "named and shamed" pension companies regulated by the PIA for their lack of progress in compensating victims.

Bernard Jones, chairman of the IFA Association, said: "We're not that surprised. The Government was not happy with the state of regulation and I am not surprised that

they want different people to run it. From the moment of the creation of super-SIB, I thought her days were numbered."

However, a Treasury spokesman denied that the Government had intervened with Mr Davies.

Ms Bowe said: "A great deal remains to be done to conclude the pensions review and to take forward work we have started here at PIA on training and competence, disclosure and the Evolution project. I am very keen that we should maintain the momentum of our important work to protect investors, as PIA goes forward into Newro. I will be working closely with PIA and Newro colleagues in the coming months to ensure a smooth and swift transition to the new regime."

The news came as a considerable surprise to PIA senior managers who were informed of the news yesterday afternoon, after the PIA board meeting.

Last Friday Ms Bowe had briefed them on the progress of the formation of Newro. During this discussion she described Mr Davies as a "good mate" and had commented that his culture seemed closer to that of the PIA than to the SIB.

Mr Davies said: "We are sorry Colette has decided not to apply for any of the senior management positions and wish her well in her future career."



Colette Bowe's statement has stunned the financial services industry



Gordon Brown runs a Treasury at odds with the Bank



George remains a target

Treasury plays down tension with Bank

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Treasury moved yesterday to counter growing disquiet that its relations with the Bank of England have sunk to an all-time low.

Whitehall sources this week accused Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, of being obstructive in the negotiations on drafting the Bill giving the Bank operational independence over interest rates and handing over regulatory powers to the new securities and investments board.

But the Treasury yesterday denied suggestions of tensions, saying: "The Bank and the Treasury are working closely together on a highly complex piece of legislation and progress on this is good and to be welcomed."

Although officials from both sides appear to have come through a particularly sticky patch in these negotiations in the summer, there is still barely disguised and considerable ill-feeling between the institutions. The Governor remains a pointed target for detractors in Whitehall and Mr George's position apparently remains a live issue in some parts of the Treasury machine.

Severe strains broke into the public domain in May when Mr George refused to deny that he had considered resignation. The Governor was clearly chagrined that he had not been properly consulted by the Treasury about the timing of the announcement on the transfer of supervisory powers.

Officials close to the Chancellor are widely believed to have attempted to use Mr George's public displeasure to weaken his grip on the Governorship and make way for a candidate closer to new Labour tastes. The favoured candidate was rumoured to be Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs, the investment bank.

However, suggestions that Mr George was under pressure played very badly in the City and even, it is believed, with top-rank Treasury civil servants. Any plans to replace the Governor appeared to have been dropped.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4890.5	(-34.7)
Yield	3.34%	
FTSE All share	2333.11	(-13.07)
Nikkei	16995.97	(+62.11)
New York		
Dow Jones	7834.02	(-1.18)*
S&P Composite	551.78	(+0.58)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	9 3/8%	(9.375%)
Yield	6.63%	(6.61%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7.25%)
Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11.5%)
2 Index	100.4	(100.1)
STERLING		
New York	1.5885*	(1.5810)
London	1.5905	(1.5827)
DM	2.8805	(2.8850)
FF	9.6832	(9.6358)
Sfr	2.2507	(2.2550)
Yen	189.37	(191.74)
£ Index	100.4	(100.1)
DOLLAR		
London	1.5130*	(1.5085)
FF	6.0945*	(6.0810)
Sfr	1.4877*	(1.4858)
Yen	119.00*	(121.18)
£ Index	105.7	(106.3)
Tokyo close Yen	118.95	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.50	(\$18.50)
WTI	\$21.85	(\$21.85)
London close	\$21.85	(\$21.85)

Church row

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, faced criticism over the Church's refusal to recognise a union representing 500 members of the clergy.

Lonrho buys

Lonrho is paying £225 million for coalmining interests owned by JCI, the South African group with which it was in merger talks earlier this year.

City unworried by inflation data

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HEADLINE inflation rose to a two-year high in August after steep rises in mortgage interest payments and the cost of summer holidays.

However, the Government's favoured measure of underlying inflation fell back, leaving the City convinced that the Bank of England will not raise interest rates after the monetary policy committee meeting which begins today.

Headline inflation rose by 0.6 per cent in August, taking the annual rate to 3.5 per cent from 3.3 per cent in July. The measure of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell from 3 per cent to 2.8 per cent, although it remains above the target figure of 2.5 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics said the main cause of the rise was a further increase in mortgage rates as banks and building societies responded to July's quarter-point rise in base rates. Holiday prices rose by about 8 per

cent from August last year as travel companies took advantage of windfall-related spending. Increases in tobacco, clothing and footwear prices also pushed up the all-items index.

Andrew Cates, UK economist at UBS, said: "This benign inflation data suggests that windfall demand so far has failed to cause serious inflation pressure." But Richard Tiley, UK economist at ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett, gave warning that the rise in headline inflation could feed through to higher wage settlements and add to inflation pressure next year.

Economists expect the gap between headline and underlying inflation to widen further next month. Another round of mortgage interest payment increases, after the August rate rise, will send the headline rate higher but underlying inflation is expected to move back towards the 2.5 per cent target.

Healthcare firm's value falls £300m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MORE than £300 million was yesterday wiped off the value of Biocompatibles International, one of Britain's biggest healthcare companies, after its American collaborator refused to license its flagship product (Chris Ayles writes).

Shares in Biocompatibles plunged 415p to 732 1/2 p, leaving the company valued at £534 million, a little over half its market value earlier this year. Five directors of the group saw their holding in it fall in value by £3.6 million.

The frenzied selling was sparked by investors' fears over the future of the surgical equipment coating made by the company. The coating, used on stents - devices that hold blood vessels open - was widely expected to be licensed to Johnson & Johnson, the US drugs group.

Instead, J&J hit worldwide confidence in the product by allowing only limited collaboration between the two companies.

Market report, page 28

RJB Mining in jobs warning

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RJB MINING, which last month closed the huge Asfordby pit, gave warning yesterday that thousands more miners' jobs could go if the Government does not back a levy on electricity bills to support clean coal technology.

Gordon McPhee, the mining group's finance director, said: "To keep the pits open we need to sustain the current level of coal burning. Without the clean technology, coal-fired stations will not be able to meet the Government's carbon dioxide emission targets."

He said that if a 1 per cent levy on household electricity bills to support clean coal was not introduced the company would have to scrap all its UK projects, including the opening of a new superpit at Witham in Nottinghamshire.

A clean coal station is being developed by RJB with National Power and Texaco, but the companies say they need public funding. The technology is seen by RJB, which employs 7,500 miners, as the only way to compete with cleaner gas-fired plants.

Richard Budge, chief executive, said he expects a decision on the levy this year. He added that the company's controversial decision to close the Asfordby pit in Leicestershire was irreversible. Of the 490 workers at the pit, 180 have accepted jobs at other sites while about 80 have taken voluntary redundancy.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, yesterday offered miners' union leaders no hope of a Government-backed reprieve. "It is difficult for the Government to influence investment decisions of private companies without prejudice to other companies," he said.

RJB lifted its interim dividend 25 per cent to 10p a share from earnings up 17 per cent to 30p. Pre-tax profit in the six months to June 30 rose to £87.2 million (£86 million).

Tempus, page 28

CWC launches £100m consultation

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR



Advert campaign starting

CABLE & WIRELESS Communications, the largest cable group, is planning to ask at least six million people what services and channels they want to receive.

CWC believes it is the largest consumer consultation exercise of its kind to be attempted in the UK. For every questionnaire returned CWC will pay 50p to Barnardo's, the children's charity.

The mass sampling of opinion is part of a massive advertising and marketing campaign that starts on Monday. The campaign will cost £50 million between now and March. A further £50 million is likely to be spent on a follow-up campaign

over subsequent months. Apart from four TV advertisements CWC has decided to buy all of the colour advertising capacity of Monday's national newspapers.

Respondents will be asked to fill in a survey entitled *What Can We Do For You?* In the final section customers will be asked what they want communications technology to do for them and the best ideas will be turned into a series of television programmes.

CWC has more than a million subscribing homes through its cable franchises and Mercury Communications, the phone company that is now part of the group. The company was formed earlier this year from a merger of three large cable companies, Nynex, Bell Cablemedia

and Videotron plus Mercury. As part of the campaign posters all over Britain will ask: "What's the future of telecommunications? You tell us" and "Who's going to decide the future of the Internet? You are".

Press advertisements will ask whether viewers really would like to have a television channel devoted to their favourite football team. CWC is already in talks with Leeds United, based in one of its cable areas, about a channel that shows news and views about the team - although not live Premiership games at this stage.

Graham Wallace, chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, said: "You'll not be able to move for CWC yellow ads next Monday."

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TRADES UNION CONGRESS AT BRIGHTON

Brothers berate Carey over brethren

CHURCH ROLE IN FOCUS

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, faced criticism over the Church's refusal to recognise a union representing 500 members of the clergy (James Landale writes).

As Dr Carey gave his backing to the legal right for union representation in a speech to congress here, Roger Lyons, General Secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, accused the Church of hypocrisy.

He claimed the Church was behaving like a "19th century mill owner" over its refusal to recognise MSF's clergy section, set up three years ago. Although priests can join the union, they cannot use it to negotiate with the Church over pay or conditions.

"They believe they can hire and fire at will," Mr Lyons said. "Many clergy are in tied cottages and if they are sacked they lose their home as well."

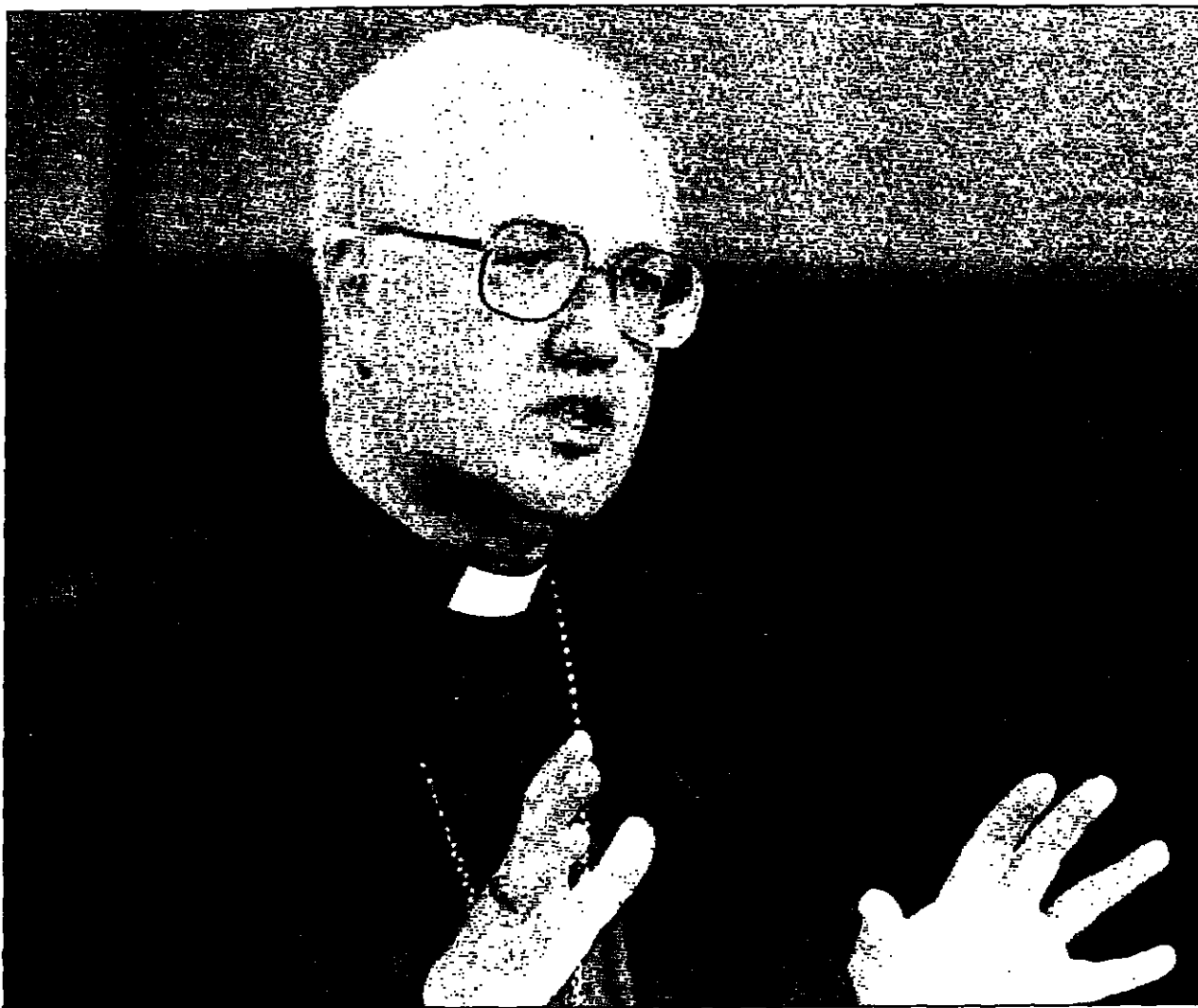
He added: "The Church is being hypocritical because it is hypocritical to want rights for others but not for your own employees."

While admitting that Dr Carey, a former member of two unions, was not hostile to unions, Mr Lyons said other bishops did not want to lose their middle-management role within the Church. He said he would be writing to Dr Carey to urge the Church to recognise MSF.

A Lambeth Palace spokesman said Mr Lyons's remarks were an unwelcome distraction to the speech made by Dr Carey yesterday. He said the Church recognised the unions of its own lay workers but insisted that the clergy were technically self-employed. He added that MSF had managed to attract only 500 out of some 10,000 clergy, which did not justify formal recognition of the union.

Last night, the MSF clergy section called for urgent action to correct an "extraordinary anomaly" where Church of England clergy are not seen as employees of the church but of God.

The clergy section, founded three years ago, has 400 members out of about 10,000 Anglican clergy.



Dr Carey embraced the unions yesterday but was accused of behaving like a mill owner over the rights of priests

CBI warns of potential for recognition conflict

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday warned the Trades Union Congress that union recognition in the workplace could be the biggest cause of disagreement between employers and unions.

The comments, by John Cridland, human resources director of the CBI, came after Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered an impassioned call for full union rights. Dr Carey told the Congress: "I believe that, in broad terms, employers have a moral responsibility to recognise the chosen representatives of their employees; and that it is unjust when people suffer victimisation on grounds of their membership of an independent union or participation in its legitimate activities."

Mr Cridland said the statutory right to recognition would

UNIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

be the main problem that had to be tackled by businesses and employees in establishing partnerships. He told a fringe meeting at the TUC: "This issue more than the minimum wage, more than the social chapter may lead to conflict rather than partnership."

Mr Cridland's warning — given on the day before Adam Turner, Director-General of the CBI, arrives at the TUC — touches on the gap between the two sides which could derail the atmosphere of co-operation that has existed in the run-up to the Government's White Paper on fairness at work.

The CBI's concerns over recognition centre around the definition of what is a workplace bargaining centre, the threshold of support for union representation and collective bargaining. Mr Cridland's

comments are critical as he is in charge of negotiations with the TUC over employment rights and is a member of the low pay commission.

The warning from the employers' organisation will be seen as clear evidence that the idea of partnership between business and employees, which the Government has

Unions riding high.....13
Leading article.....19

been at pains to set as the cornerstone of industrial relations, may be difficult to achieve in reality.

Yesterday it provided a stark contrast with the radical speech by the Archbishop of Canterbury who made a case for recognition. He told Congress that the rules of the

marketplace should not be allowed to reign supreme. In a speech that received a warmer reception from delegates than that of Tony Blair, he said: "Market must be bent to serve moral and human ends; they are not sufficient ends in themselves. Humane working conditions, social justice, an inclusive and cohesive society, responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources: these cannot be regarded as second-order concerns, contingent on the iron laws of economics which are seen as primary."

Quoting the Catholic bishops' conference book Dr Carey said: "Workers have rights which... include the right to decent work, to just wages, to security of employment, to adequate rest and holidays, to limitation of hours of work, to health and safety protection, to non-discrimination, to form and join trade unions, and, as a last resort, to go on strike."

Unison in call for Welfare to Work expansion

JOBS FOR EVERYONE

THE Government was urged to make full employment a priority as the Trades Union Congress said that more needs to be done to tackle unemployment (Christine Buckley writes).

Rodney Bickerstaff, general secretary of Unison, said: "One in five households in Britain is workless. This scale of social exclusion is simply not seen in most European countries."

While Mr Bickerstaff and a number of delegates told Congress that the Government's Welfare to Work programme was welcome they said it must be monitored to make sure it delivered a lasting reduction in unemployment.

Mr Bickerstaff also said that more should be done to help older workers who are excluded from the Government's move to take 250,000 young people off the dole. He said: "We still have a massive problem of long-term unemployment among older workers. We need to extend the programme to this group and to all those outside the active labour market who would like to work."

He also gave warning of sterling's impact on jobs and said that the Bank of England is in danger of "policy overkill" with its actions on interest rates.

He said: "The strong pound is still putting our exporters under more and more pressure. Far from the Bank being too soft on interest rates, our worry is that the strong pound and higher interest rates will produce a faster slowdown next year than either the Bank or the Treasury expects."

Among the demands put to the Government by the TUC are:

- Positive government intervention in matters such as fiscal policy, public spending and demand management, with the objective of full employment.
- Investment in manufacturing to make it capable of delivering sustained growth.
- Effective regulation to ensure companies covered by the windfall tax do not try to offset it by reducing employment levels still further.

John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, on an unprecedented joint visit to a factory. Five years ago such an event would not have occurred.

Over the past two weeks, even William Hague, the Tory leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, have felt the need to meet John Monks. At the Congress itself, the normally modest collection of exhibitors has burgeoned into a larger gathering. The Liberal Democrats are there for the first time as several banks and businesses.

Tony Dubbins, the outgoing president of the TUC, said: "The debates are not so arcane as they used to be."

Tony Blair yesterday even felt able to joke about the change. "Not only did Arthur Scargill forget to move his amendment but the most radical speech of the week was from the Archbishop of Canterbury."

POLITICIANS



Short: attending Congress

Foreign Secretary, flies in from Hamburg to give the fraternal address. Yesterday George Carey became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to speak at the TUC. Also visiting today is Adam Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, who will

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Spring Ram runs at a profit again

SPRING RAM, the troubled kitchens and bathrooms company, has recorded an operating profit for the first time in two and a half years. It made £100,000 in the six months to 28 June, against a loss of £7.1 million in the corresponding period last year. After interest charges, there was a pre-tax loss of £1.4 million, against a loss of £17.8 million. The loss per share was 0.3p, down from 4.5p. There is no dividend.

The bathrooms side saw its profits rise and there was a reduced loss from the kitchens operation and on the furniture side, which Spring Ram has been trying to sell. Roger Regan, chairman, said that no acceptable offers had been made for the furniture business, so it was likely that the company would retain it in the medium term. He hoped that the kitchens side would break into profit in the second of the year, and "if not then, next year". The shares stayed at 10 1/4 p.

Croda suffers £11m dent

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals group, said the pound's continued strength now looks likely to dent full-year profits by £11 million, up from the previous estimate of £7 million. The company was reporting first-half profits little changed at £22.6 million (£22.5 million). Keith Hopkins, chief executive, said lower raw material prices, were not significant enough to counter the adverse currency effects. Earnings were unchanged at 11.5p and the interim dividend rises to 3.55p a share from 3.45p.

Acquisitions help Aegis

AEGIS, the media buying and planning group, lifted first-half pre-tax profits 12 per cent to £21 million, with contributions from acquisitions helping to offset adverse currency effects. On a like-for-like basis, profits were up 19 per cent. Earnings rose 14 per cent to 0.3p (0.25p). The interim dividend is up 20 per cent to 0.3p (0.25p). The company said its aim was further development in America, followed by Asia. Aegis is close to concluding a small acquisition in Malaysia. *Tempus, page 28*

Laura Ashley factory sold

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled fashion retailer, has sold one of the Welsh factories that was threatened with closure, averting the loss of 60 jobs. The buyer of the factory at Machynlleth in Dyfed is Merchants Design and Manufacturing, based at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. Its clients include Harrods, House of Fraser and Austin Reed. Laura Ashley's garment-making factories at Machynlleth and at Caernarfon in Gwynedd were put up for sale or closure last month in a bid to revive the company's ailing fortunes.

Warning hits La Senza

SHARES in La Senza plunged 40 per cent yesterday after the AIM-quoted lingerie retailer issued a profits warning and said that it is suspending its store opening programme. The shares, which came to the market last year at 150p, fell 26 1/2 p to 38 1/2 p. Half-year losses have grown to £2.9 million, from £1.6 million, even though like-for-like sales rose 3 per cent and turnover grew 68 per cent to £10.3 million. The deeper loss was blamed on planning and buying difficulties that led to heavy discounting. There is again no interim dividend.

Harrisons sharply down

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, the animal feed to builders' materials group, will next month announce the result of its strategic review, launched in March. The company, under its newly appointed chairman, Jonathan Fry, is thought to be considering a three-way break-up to reverse its declining share price. Yesterday it reported sharply lower pre-tax profits of £38.6 million (£64 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were 3.9p (5.5p). The interim dividend stays at 3.6p.

London lifts Royalblue

ROYALBLUE, the supplier of electronic dealing systems and software for customer help-desks, announced profits of £1.21 million for the first half of 1997, up 20 per cent on the same period in 1996, before exceptional flotation costs of £1 million. Turnover rose 65 per cent to £8.9 million, mainly from the UK, where demand for dealing systems has boomed because of the move to order-driven trading in London. An interim dividend of 0.75p will be paid on October 20.

Care First's tough time

CARE FIRST, the nursing home group formed by a merger of the Takara and Cavendish healthcare groups, said yesterday that market conditions "remain tough" and that some of its homes still have fairly high vacancy rates. They should reach full occupancy by the end of next year. Pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 were £7.97 million, down from £8.66 million, on turnover up by 47 per cent to £87.9 million. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.55p. The shares fell 3p to 106p.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.26	Malta	0.688
Austria Sch	21.25	Netherlands Gld	3.432
Belgium Fr	66.60	New Zealand \$	2.26
Canada \$	2.327	Norway Kr	12.48
Cyprus Cyp	0.882	Portugal Esc	304.53
Denmark Kr	11.25	S Africa Rd	8.10
Finland Mk	9.16	Spain Ptas	254.20
France Fr	10.14	Sweden Kr	13.20
Germany Dm	3.04	Switzerland Fr	2.51
Greece Dr	478	Turkey Lira	27.917
Hong Kong \$	13.15	USA \$	1.587
Iceland	128		
Ireland P	1.12		
Israel Sh	5.25		
Italy Lira	2091		
Japan Yen	204.13		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Government to look at options

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PENSIONS

THE Government is to examine ways of reducing the number of people who do not join occupational pension schemes. But ministers publicly rejected calls to restore the right of employers to make membership of occupational schemes compulsory.

John Denham, Social Security Under Secretary of State, told delegates that the Government would consider a range of options aimed at ensuring the fullest possible take-up of occupational pensions.

Addressing a fringe meeting he said: "Those who don't join are not only passing up the opportunity to save for their own future. They are also passing up the opportunity to benefit from their employer's contribution to the scheme."

"Generally an occupational pension scheme should, in the long term, provide a better value pension than if an

individual opted for a personal pension, or remained in Serps."

Mr Denham said he hoped the review would help to encourage ways of ensuring that people did not miss out on the benefits of occupational pensions. Options to consider include:

- Setting out clearer requirements on declarations individual employees must make before they opt out of occupational schemes to ensure that those doing so are fully aware of what they are giving up.
- A default clause that would automatically make employees members of occupational schemes when they became eligible to join, although they would still be able to opt out.

Mr Denham said the Government wanted to lay the foundations of a workable system that would endure well into the millennium.

Tobacco fears to be aired

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to thwart the Government's attempts to stop people smoking is being launched at a TUC fringe meeting tonight by members of four unions. They fear that 68,000 jobs could be lost.

The "jobs going up in smoke" campaign is backed by the Tobacco Workers Alliance, which is supported by the Transport and General Workers, MSF (Manufacturing Science Finance), the GMB and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.

The alliance believes that "policies of high taxation are simply fuelling a boom in smuggled tobacco, transferring manufacturing jobs from the UK to Europe and threatening the livelihood of the local newsagent."

TUC finds favour across the board as mood alters

By JAMES LANDALE

AFTER 18 years in the wilderness, the TUC has finally come in from the cold.

Politicians, business leaders and even the Archbishop of Canterbury have this week headed for Brighton to a Congress that for much of the last decade has been nothing more than a sideshow before the main party conferences.

But in the wake of Labour's victory, trade union leaders have seen a new-found interest in their activities from across the political spectrum. After keeping their distance from the TUC for several years, Government ministers have flocked down to the coast.

With the Prime Minister yesterday — the first to address the TUC since James (now Lord) Callaghan in 1978 — were five Cabinet ministers: Margaret Beckett, David Blunkett, Gavin Strang, Harriet Harman and Clare Short. Today Robin Cook, the For-

SHORT: attending Congress



Short: attending Congress

Foreign Secretary, flies in from Hamburg to give the fraternal address. Yesterday George Carey became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to speak at the TUC. Also visiting today is Adam Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, who will

Equity members cast as speech coaches



Kate Williams, left, of Equity, the actors' union, coaching Denise Hardy in preparation for her speech to the TUC

TUC delegates, whose oratorical skills occasionally depend more on volume than eloquence, are being offered the chance to learn the art of speechmaking. Members of Equity, the actors' union, are giving speech lessons to fellow delegates.

Having learnt much of their public speaking on the picket line, many delegates bellow into the microphone. Others, less used to delivering speeches, rush through prepared texts, hardly daring to raise their eyes above the podium.

The speech lessons are the idea of Miriam Karlin, a member of Equity's executive and best known for her role as the militant shop steward "Paddy" in the 1960s television comedy *The Rag Trade*. Frustrated by poor public speaking

at the TUC, she approached John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, and secured his agreement for Equity members to pass on some of their skills to other delegates.

Kate Williams, who appeared in the television sitcom *May to December*, yesterday took her first workshop. "Lots

ACTING CLASSES

of the speakers are very good, they know what they want to say and they are quite passionate, but what they are not so good at is communicating their passion," she said. "Often they speak too quickly or keep their heads down."

Union delegates are encouraged to cut the jargon and speak clearly. They are also being taught how best to use their body language, keeping their heads up and making eye contact with their audience. Under TUC rules, delegates have only three minutes to make their point and they often try to say too much too quickly.

After a slow start, business swiftly picked up yesterday and many delegates came to get some advice. Denise Hardy, president of the Society of Radiographers, who is due to speak today, said: "I have learnt a huge amount about body language and what that says to an audience, things that I was never really aware of before. I am sure that will make me more confident when I get up and deliver my speech."

In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 14 August 1997, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of £7.4280 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 8 September 1997, as advised by the companies' South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:

Name of Company (All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Dividend pence	Amount per share (pence)
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	149	5.38503p
New Wits Limited	95	4.71190p
Vogelsteelmetal Metal Holdings Limited	101	6.05816p

London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greenoat House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH
9 September 1997

By order of the hands
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
Lambert Serrano
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

Devolution will give business a closer link to government

As top Scottish businessmen urge a 'no' vote tomorrow, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State, says 'yes' is best for commerce



Donald Dewar believes that what business can do for a Scottish parliament is just as important as what a parliament can do for Scottish business

Scotland tomorrow faces an historic choice. Twenty years of debate comes to an end and the time for decisions arrives. The Government's White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament*, sets out a detailed and thoroughly considered set of proposals which, taken together, will rejuvenate Scottish public life and usher in a new kind of democratic politics. That the politics of Scotland will benefit from devolution is no longer seriously questioned, even by those campaigning against our proposals in the referendum. However, what will be the impact on Scottish business? And does the assertion that our proposals pose a threat to business stand up to scrutiny?

I have spent a great deal of time meeting businessmen and business organisations to explain our proposals and how we see them working in practice. These discussions have been constructive and I am delighted that the Scottish business community is engaged so vigorously in the devolution debate. Attention has focused on two issues — the tax-varying power that is proposed for the Scottish parliament; and the possible impact of devolution on non-domestic rates.

The Scottish parliament will, if the proposal is endorsed in the referendum tomorrow, have a limited power to vary the basic rate of income tax in Scotland by three pence in the pound, up or down. This power will relate to personal income tax only. To

maintain the level playing field for business throughout the UK, legislative competence over commercial law, corporate taxation, financial regulation, competition policy and a range of other issues is reserved to Westminster.

Of course, if the Scottish parliament chooses to exercise its discretion over income tax in a particular way, the potential impact — either positive or negative — depends entirely on how it is used. The same point might be made in relation to the powers, proposed for the parliament in, say, transport policy or housing. That is democracy. We trust the people of Scotland, and the representatives they elect, to

make decisions that are in Scotland's best interests. If, for example, they want to see a cut in personal income tax, they will have to live with the revenue consequences. Labour is already committed to a policy of not raising income tax for five years and this holds for any Labour representation in a Scottish parliament as well. But financial powers are an essential part and parcel of the democratic choices that many other devolved governments in Europe take for granted and they are important if the Scottish parliament is to be democratically mature and fiscally responsible.

It is also right, for much the

same reasons, that the Scottish parliament should assume the powers over local taxation that currently reside with me, as Secretary of State. Does anyone seriously suggest — after the shenanigans surrounding the poll tax, which would have been laughable if they had not been so expensive to the public purse — that Westminster is better placed to provide democratic control over these issues than a Scottish parliament?

Bill Anderson, of the Scottish Federation of Small Businesses, has already drawn attention to how much easier it will be for business to influence decisions on these matters once they have been devolved.

I have addressed these two issues specifically because they have attracted public comment from a number of leading business figures. But in reality the new opportunities that devolution will unlock for the Scottish business community are much more significant.

I expect business interests to have a direct and continuing influence on a Scottish parliament. For example, they will be able to make a major contribution to the parliament's decisions on education. Democracy is a two-way street, and what business can do for a Scottish parliament is just as important as what a parliament can do for Scottish business. Scottish busi-

ness, in dialogue with a Scottish parliament, can be more certain of getting its message across and seeing its interests addressed than it can be when dealing with a UK Parliament where it is merely one regional or sectional interest among many.

Since May 1, 16 inward investment projects, creating 3,000 new jobs, have been announced. For these companies — operating in the hard-headed world of international business — the attractions of Scotland have not been dulled by the prospect of devolution. Perhaps, indeed, they have been sharpened by it. Scotland's image overseas will be enhanced by the renewed focus for growth and investment, bringing particular benefits to those industries that rely on Scotland's reputation for excellence.

I believe that the wisdom and judgement of the Scottish people will guide a Scottish parliament's decisions. For all true democrats, in the world of commerce and elsewhere, that is the conclusive argument in favour of devolution.

A yes/vote on Thursday will be good for the Scottish polity and, by definition, good for one of its most influential components — Scottish business.

Healthy climate for hedges and the IMF

There is old crack that an emerging market is one from which you cannot emerge in an emergency. It was widely disregarded until recently, after the great Mexican crisis, investors seem to have assumed that all governments had learned prudence.

They know better now. The landscape is full of lame tigers, and now, with the ominous Colombian slide in the exchange markets, it seems that even Latin America needs a second re-education. Nice weather for hedge funds — and, it may prove, for the International Monetary Fund. Its annual meeting later this month is likely to be a much happier occasion than it can have hoped.

The IMF has never been popular: those who prescribe nasty medicine cannot expect to be loved — especially if they make a habit of flying first class to bankrupt countries. But this never worried IMF officials in Washington: indeed, they made a virtue of unpopularity. By offering itself as a scapegoat, they would explain, the IMF made it possible for governments to take actions that would otherwise have spelled political death.

What was beginning to threaten its future, though, was economic success. As years passed without a crisis requiring an IMF cure, its enemies in the US Congress, always anxious to find spending cuts that do not hit any US voters, painted it as an expensive relic and began to argue for its abolition. The global capital market would impose any discipline that might be needed. This looks far too optimistic now, and nobody would defend the Fund more stoutly than its new Asian clients. An IMF package may be painful, but not as bad as the alternative, a real working-over in the markets. Even the defiant Dr Mahathir of Malaysia has now embraced official approval of austerity.

But is the IMF's current role to protect governments from their own folly, or rather to protect investors from theirs? All the recent financial collapses — even that of Japan — were triggered by an irrational financial market boom. Hence the problems for

which governments and bank regulators are routinely blamed: inflating capital drives exchange rates up and interest rates down. Result: a large current account deficit, and a thoughtless investment boom.

These market excesses have certainly not gone unnoticed. Indeed, the annual symposium of central bankers at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, ten days ago talked of nothing else. Unusually, though, the assembled wise men, from the great Alan Greenspan downwards, offered no solutions. They deplored the manic-depressive behaviour of the markets; but they have been doing that since the first South Sea Bubble. They surmised that markets might behave less foolishly if they were given fuller information; but it is often the officials themselves who suppress disturbing news for fear of rocking the boat. And would warnings have any effect? After all, Greenspan has been unable even to restrain Wall Street: how could he possibly hope to massage the Hang Seng?

The good news is that markets do learn, if only slowly. Speculators like George Soros are even more unpopular than the IMF; but by triggering crises relatively early, they make them a bit more manageable. There have been heavy setbacks in the Asian markets; indeed, many had risen so high that they were long overdue. But so far there has been no meltdown. Currencies have been devalued but not rendered valueless. Despite the dramas and disappointments, the measurements show that markets, like market economies, are becoming less volatile as the years pass. The hedge funds deserve a good deal of credit for both developments.

One uncomfortable fact remains: both the potential saviours of an unrestrained global market economy — the funds and the Fund — depend on crises for their continued existence. No volatility, no profits for the hedge funds; no crises, no tolerance for the sometimes overbearing IMF. It looks like a system that can only go on working at all so long as it does not work perfectly.

A deal to bother 'Arfur' Daley

Jason Nissé explains why the used car market will never be the same again as Car Group buys its rival

The market for used cars in Britain underwent a sea change yesterday. By buying its largest competitor — and the only motor dealer that operates on a similar basis — The Car Group became the nation's largest retailer of used cars. Yet even after the £20.3 million purchase of Empress Car Group (Aberthillery), Car Group will operate from only five sites.

The difference between these sites and your conventional motor dealer is size. Car Group operates what it calls Car Supermarkets, sites of no fewer than 6,000 sq ft that sell used cars of rarely more than five years of age in massive volumes. Its first site, at Carnock, north of Birmingham, was expanded shortly after the group floated last year and more recently it has

been augmented by a 10,000 sq ft site at Northampton. The two existing Car Group sites will sell more than 30,000 cars this year. Empress has a turnover of 30,000 cars a year on its three sites in South Wales. One of these will be converted to retailing cars of more than five years of age, enabling Car Group to sell motors it has taken in part-exchange rather than putting them out to auction.

The deal with Empress came about through a mixture of commercial tension and opportunism. Though Empress is a well-established business, Peter King, Car

Group's aggressive chief executive, had seen a chance to beat it at its own game and was planning to open a rival site in Newport, Gwent.

Empress had tried to block Car Group's planning permission. In the midst of the battle, Richard Farr, the venture capitalist who chairs Car Group, had discovered that Empress's tax exile owners, Bob and Janet Morris, were negotiating to sell the group to a management buy-in team. So Car Group nipped in and offered a higher price.

Its expansion is threatening the profitability of many of the UK's leading car dealers. The likes of Dixons Motors, DC

Cook and Reg Vardy make a substantial part of their profit from used car sales. Car Group's supermarkets undercut other dealers on price and offer buyers a wider choice. Car Group's deals with hire car chains and leasing companies to buy their used cars is cutting off many of the sources of quality used cars to the conventional dealers. "Car Group is becoming the gorilla on the block and it is worrying the other dealers," said one City analyst.

The Empress deal is far from being the end of Car Group's ambitions. It has also applied for planning permission for two more sites — one

believed to be off the M62 in Yorkshire, the other on the outskirts of London — and Empress has an option on a site in Coventry. If these are developed, Car Group could be selling nearly 100,000 used cars a year.

It is also trying to break into the £6 billion a year private sale market — people selling through the likes of Exchange & Mart, Autotrader and Look. In a deal with Lloyds TSB and Royal & Sun Alliance, it is offering warranties for second-hand cars sold privately. There is little profit in this deal for Car Group, but it enables the company to build up a database of car owners to whom it can attempt to sell used cars.

Car Group is revolutionising the second-hand car market in Britain. The days of 'Arfur' Daley are long gone.

Going rate

WHAT IS this from Scottish Media, né Scottish TV, where they might have been expected to be a bit more careful with their cash? Gus Macdonald is moving up to non-executive chairman from the start of next year. The one-time left-wing firebrand and shipyard worker, who has been at Scottish TV for more than a decade now, will be taking it easier from now on, one assumes. Non-executives tend to work fewer hours than full-timers, after all, and Gus is 57.

But I hear Macdonald's contract says he will be at the executive rate for two

years after he steps up — or down, depending on how you look at it. He made £240,000 last year, £225,000 of this basic salary, which is presumably what he will get in future. Negotiations on the subject continue. I am not suggesting that he is not worth every penny. And I never knew that his real name was Angus.

● A VIGNETTE from Brighton: the Beloved Leader has spoken, and the press are filing into a conference to be given by John Monks, the TUC General Secretary. The hushed silence is broken by a mobile phone. The tune? Whistle While You Work, from Snow White. Better known as the dwarfs' working song.

Ad is for life

A SERIOUS and justified kicking for the Prudential from the Advertising Standards Authority, the virtually toothless watchdog that polices the outer limits of the advertising game. "Why you'll be better off with Prudential because we're No 1 in our field" was the offending ad in the national press. No 1 at what? Some, but not all, of the pension and life assurance business, said the agency,



Barkers; not good enough, said the ASA. In future the Pru will have to say which bits they reckon they are best at. I should lay off pensions for a start, at least until you have sorted out the mess from last time you claimed you were any good at it.

But the ASA lacks the ability to fine anyone for such blatant lying and puffery, and anyway, even the six-figure numbers that City regulators can demand are a gnat's bite to the likes of the Pru. A thought. Why not fine the agencies who produce such tosh, and tend to be fairly slender beasts? I know nothing about the finances of Barkers, but I imagine half a million would leave a bit of a hole there.

● THE ECONOMIST is courting potential readers

with one of those tailored, computerised mail-shots that assume an immediate and close, nay blood, relationship with the recipient. One went to a friend's business address, at Something Something Ltd. "If you consider The Economist of limited appeal, perhaps you should think again," it trumpeted. The letter somewhat weakened its case by beginning "Dear Mr Ltd".

Launch aid

WHATEVER the turmoil at the Bank of England, I hear that David Clementi, the new Deputy Governor, is about to emerge into the light at his first official engagement at the Bank. There since the start of this month, he will co-host a reception at Threadneedle Street a week today aimed at raising £4 million for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This is the first time the RNLi has tried to raise money from the business sector for a specific project. Clementi, as many will know since his unexpected elevation to the public eye, is a keen sailor.

Pulp friction

SO WHAT was in the latest internal Treasury newsletter that meant the whole issue had to be pulled and pulped at the last moment? On the orders of Charlie Whelan, no less, the bike chain-wielding mouthpiece of Gordon Brown,

It seems the subject under discussion was the Treasury's relocation to Camelford House on Albert Embankment, a move so popular that several Treasury long-timers have hurled themselves off Vauxhall Bridge, metaphorically speaking, rather than cross the river. And it seems that Whelan, while less than pleased with the subject matter, was even less happy with the title. "New Headache, New Treasury" wasn't it? Be it hereby known that the phrase New This, New That is Labour Party copyright, and not to be used for anything as frivolous as a discussion on employees' rights in the workplace.

MARTIN WALLER



David Clementi, known as a keen sailor

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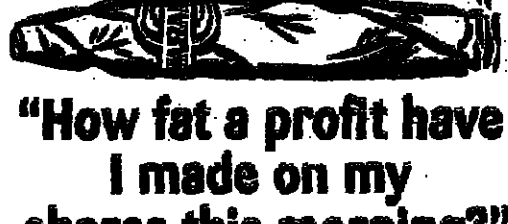
Equities fall in quiet trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BANKS							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS							
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1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Mining							
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PROPERTY							
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
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TEXTILES & APPAREL							
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Water							
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TEXTILES & APPAREL							
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1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Water							
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E



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Jimmy McGovern, foreground, and John Simm, the lead in *The Lakes*, McGovern's new five-part drama series about passion among boating folk

In thrall to words' worth

Whatever happened to daffodils? "Love and lust in the Lakes" is how the BBC has chosen to trail the new five-part drama series by Jimmy McGovern. Yet another exorcism of personal demons which would long ago have sunk a less robust soul. *The Lakes* is the story of Liverpoolian Danny and his adventures in "a sex-obsessed, secretive, small community in the Lake District".

McGovern sees it in less lurid terms: "It's the story about a clash of communities

and, yes, to some extent it's autobiographical." Like Danny, McGovern worked in a Lake District hotel, got a girl pregnant, and married her. Like Danny, he spent years as a compulsive gambler, a habit begun in his childhood.

McGovern was born to obsessions. An hour in his company leaves you exhilarated and exhausted. His thoughts tumble out fast and furious as

he expresses his angst at the state of the nation. "Take drugs. The sure way to spread drugs is to ban them. Take teachers. Give them tenure for life and they become lazy bastards, not because they are evil, but because they become so disillusioned. As for the police, do you honestly think they care about justice? How can you be a police officer and a member of a secret society?"

McGovern served his apprenticeship writing 80 episodes of *Brookside*, hit the jackpot with *Cracker*, and has won a clutch of awards for hard-edged, witty dramas dealing with his obsessions — sex, gambling, death, Catholicism and guilt. He is proudest of his drama documentary, *Hillsborough*. The decision to hold a second inquiry into the death of the 96 Liverpool fans was in no small way due to its impact. Paradoxically, for one hailed as a master of down-to-earth realism, his own life has been stranger than fiction would ever allow. The fifth of nine children of a betting shop manager, McGovern did not speak properly until he was eight, and then with a stutter. The written word was his

refuge. "I wrote all the time and read everything: Steinbeck, Hemingway, Joyce — I thought *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* was the best book I'd ever read." Academically bright, he locked horns with his Jesuit teachers, left school at 16 and drifted through a series of dead-end jobs, always dreaming that one day he would write the Big Novel. By the time he was 24 it seemed less than likely. He had a wife, three children and a serious gambling habit. The turning point came as the result of a building dispute. "We'd got a grant to do home improvements, but the work was so shoddy I had a blazing row with the builder." So impressed was McGovern with the power of McGovern's aggression that he persuaded him to go along to a writer's workshop. "I could be very articulate in rage — I could wound wonderfully." The workshop led to McGovern enrolling as a mature student and getting a job teaching English. He wrote plays for the Liverpool Playhouse, the Everyman, and in 1983 was signed up for *Brookside*. Even so, he hung on to the day job. "As soon as

the bell went I'd get my script out. That went on for a year; I was terrified to pack in teaching."

McGovern's breakthrough, *Cracker*, was born on the rebound when *Priest*, a project very close to his heart, failed to get off the ground. He modelled the hero on his mood at the time. "I was disillusioned, cynical, and angry. I'd been asked to write about a criminal psychologist, and vetoed it twice, saving all my energies for *Priest*. When that collapsed, I threw myself into *Cracker* with such energy I found myself frightened by it. It turned out all right in the end. When word filtered through about *Cracker*, *Priest* got the green light."

He sees himself less as writer than as a story-teller. "I have a need to tell stories, any story, as long as it addresses the fundamental issues of the human condition." He remains unrepentant regarding the level of violence and sex in his work: "You have to write the truth as you see it, and the truth is often unsettling. In *Cracker*, I believe what I wrote were honest explanations of men, and the feelings which men suppress. The trouble is, the more honest you are, the more you get slammed."

Politically, he describes himself as "old Labour, chastened by experience", and he reserves judgment on Tony Blair. "He seems to be doing something, but whether he's a man of substance remains to be seen. For me, only one issue matters — justice for the Hillsborough families. If Jack Straw cannot give the public justice, then what's Labour for?"

Despite his success, he feels he is still learning his craft. "With my latest screenplay, I began, Hollywood-style, with a high concept. The trouble is, high concept sits on your script like a toad, and you're stuck with it. You get so fired by the concept you dare not let the characters have any kind of free will in case they stray away from the plot. So every draft is a constant struggle to let the characters breathe. I aim for perfection and constantly fail."

"What sustains me is Geoff. Every writer needs a Geoff. He was a schoolteacher I used to know, a great critic who couldn't write anything because he was so self-critical. There has to be a guy who writes, and there has to be a Geoff. Geoff makes for lean writing."

● *The Lakes* begins on Sunday (9.05pm) on BBC1

MUSIC: Romantic and Baroque concerts in London

Sounds of silence and consolation

Memorial tributes were paid at both weekend Proms not only to Diana, Princess of Wales, but to Mother Teresa and to Sir Georg Solti, who had been due to conduct Verdi's *Requiem* at the Proms on Friday (Sir Colin Davis replaces him). On Sunday Neeme Jarvi and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra prefaced their scheduled programme with a short piece from Hugo Alfvén which was both touching and poignant.

It was also the only chance we had to hear any Swedish music, for the visitors devoted the first part of the programme to excavating some seldom-heard Brahms: his male voice cantata, *Rinaldo*. The nearest this composer came to anything operatic, its setting of Goethe's text was strongly delivered both by Stig Andersen as the gallant but love-lorn tenor hero, and by the Sons of Orpheus Chorus from Uppsala as the crusaders vigorously calling him back from dalliance to duty.

On purely a musical basis it would probably be kinder to let the cantata rest until resolved in an apotheosis of epic grandeur, with an encore to follow — the *Valse triste* by Sibelius — that reflected the orchestra's contrasting delicacy.

On the previous night at the Albert Hall the audience was asked to stand for another minute's silence before a changed programme which replaced the intended Poulenc and Ravel with Fauré's gentle *Requiem*. While I was sorry to lose Poulenc's ebullient Gloria, the message of personal

BBC PROMS



Judith Howarth: a pure soprano soloist in Fauré

pal conductor was apparent in their performance of the *Fifth Symphony* by Sibelius. Here was a revelatory approach that made the music sound new-minted. The inherent tension in the work was never allowed to slacken but consistently held back until resolved in an apotheosis of epic grandeur, with an encore to follow — the *Valse triste* by Sibelius — that reflected the orchestra's contrasting delicacy.

On the previous night at the Albert Hall the audience was asked to stand for another minute's silence before a changed programme which replaced the intended Poulenc and Ravel with Fauré's gentle *Requiem*. While I was sorry to lose Poulenc's ebullient Gloria, the message of personal

comfort in tribulation offered by the *Requiem* was more in keeping with the sombre mood of the day.

Its lyrical restraint of feeling was touchingly evoked by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under David Atherton, the principal guest conductor, although the combined forces of the BBC National Chorus of Wales and the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus planned for jubilant Poulenc was vocally too weighty for Fauré, especially at the few outbursts like the "Exaudi" in the Introit, and the pealing "Hosannas" later.

Neal Davies sang a measured baritone solo in the *Hostias* and invoked an eloquent *Liberate me*, and Judith Howarth, placed higher up beside the organ console, where Malcolm Hicks was a sensitive organist, floated a pure and poignant soprano for *Pie Jesu*. Atherton had asked for no applause when the *Requiem* finished and, as its last notes died away, the utter stillness in a crowded hall had its own silent eloquence.

This work waited nearly 50 years to reach Britain, but Rachmaninov's First Symphony waited even longer: it was not heard here until nearly 70 years after its composition and disastrous premiere. Even now, in its rehabilitation as a youthful venture by the composer, it remains an unbalanced work as if contrived from musical building blocks. This performance laid them out forcefully but without a symphonic cogency.

NOEL GOODWIN

Water, water, everywhere

THE first day of Philip Pickett's imaginatively conceived Early Music Weekend, *To Set Before a King*, featured music from the Caroline Courts given by the Paddisford Ensemble, medieval dances by the Dufay Collective, and water music by Handel and Telemann from Pickett's own New London Consort.

The most intriguing item was Pickett's radical new thesis concerning Handel's *Water Music*. The performance of the latter on a barge, during a royal water party on the Thames in 1717, is not quite the novelty it seems. There was a long tradition of such aquatic pageants and an established symbolism to go with them. Pickett argues that the allegorical conceit underlying the 1717 water party was *The Meeting of Neptune and King George*, the purpose being to bolster the monarch's public image as "ruler of the land" by correlating him with the ruler of the sea.

New London Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Neptune and his retinue were traditionally associated with conch shells — horns being an occasional substitute — and it is noteworthy that the pair of horns used by Handel here was virtually unprecedented. Flutes and recorders were also commonly used to evoke sea images, though these appear only in the so-called G Major Suite. Pickett adduces convincing evidence (not exactly new) that the G Major Suite may well have been heard on board, contrary to a widely held view that it was played only indoors at Chelsea after supper.

Of course, Handel uses horns and recorders elsewhere to signify quite different things (Jews, Romans,

songbirds); nevertheless, the thesis is eminently plausible. Whereas Pickett's equally controversial thesis on the symbolism underlying Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* resulted in a fresh approach to the music, here there was little discernible difference. Perhaps a more regal tread in several of the movements, and a tendency towards pomp rather than the all-too-fashionable virtuosity, hinted at the subtext.

Unfortunately, the result was sometimes lethargic, and in any case compromised by some decidedly hit-and-miss horn playing. Inspired by the eccentricities of Telemann's two water suites, *Hamburger Ebb and Fluth* and *Älster Echo* — whose movement titles incidentally make the allegory clear — the Consort delivered lively, characterful performances of both.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JASON MARTIN

Age: 27.

Profession: Painter. His work is almost impossible to reproduce, because photographs of it look like conventional minimalist art, his rectangular canvases painted one uniform colour. Fortunately galleries, specifically the fashionable Lisson Gallery, have looked at the originals rather than a clutch of slides, and realised where the difference lies. Consequently, he has had two successful solo shows at the Lisson, and participated in the Oxford Museum of Modern Art's recently touring show *About Vision* and the Royal Academy's forthcoming *Sensation*. Next month he has a solo show in Japan.

He was schooled at Goldsmiths. A funny place for a painter to go? "Yes, that's why I went there. If you said you wanted to do a painting, you could, but they thought it odd that you wanted to paint a line when you could suspend a real line from the ceiling instead."

This was an advantage? "Yes. Maybe I'm just aggressive. I was always up for a fight, and enjoyed having to fight for what I wanted to do." And that's always been painting? "Yes. At school I got through quite a lot of Abstract Expressionist clichés. But that was not really what I wanted to do. I always admired Pollock, but

I didn't want to be Pollock, just to make my paintings be a record of my body moving through space, as his dribble paintings are of his body in motion. But my movements are much more restrained and structured, and so my paintings come out looking very different."

Method: "I have a baton with a draught excluder attached to it, so that it makes an immensely wide brush. I drag the colour across the surface (frequently a plate of polished stainless steel) with it, and I have to use my whole body to do this. So even the slightest fluctuation in my movement has its effect on the mark I am making."

Whom does he admire? Pollock, Cézanne.



Failure rate: About three paintings that he thinks work to seven that have to be scrapped down or scrapped.

Criteria for success: "It has to be a visual experience, first and foremost. If it isn't, why paint at all? Why not write a book?"

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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CHANGING TIMES

Autumn shows: the critics' choice

FILM

Geoff Brown

At the Cannes Film Festival in May, the Spice Girls paraded their wares to promote a project that barely existed except for the title, *Spice: The Movie*. Things move fast in the higher echelons of art, and the film will be presented to the nation's cinemas on Boxing Day. But that is a long way ahead. Before that, more substantial pleasures lie in wait. This month, prepare to be astonished by Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, an elegiac adaptation of Russell Banks's novel about a small town devastated by grief after a school bus accident. Past films from the Canadian have been dominated by voyeuristic games and technology; here he rediscovers human beings.

Mid-September brings Mike Leigh's *Career Girls*, the tale of two college friends meeting up after six years. The film may appear slight next to *Secrets & Lies*, but it is affecting in its exploration of fond hopes and harsh reality. British cinema also comes up trumps with *Nil by Mouth* (Oct 10), Gary Oldman's directorial debut, inspired by his own East London upbringing.

One week later, Stephen Fry appears as Oscar Wilde in *Wilde*, from the director of *Tom & Viv*, Brian Gilbert. Given the advances in sexual politics since the last round of Wilde films in 1960, one might expect this to dot the i's and cross the t's more than it does. But there is an emotional maturity here that impresses. November brings two British movies with European ties: Michael Winterbottom's *Welcome to Sarajevo*, weighed down with *hokum*, and *The Tango Lesson* from Sally Potter (director of *Orlando*), a film destined to send you out with a rose between your teeth.

And from Hollywood? There is *Home Alone 3*, if you can stand it. There is Demi Moore in Ridley Scott's *G.I. Jane*, head shaved, suffering exquisite physical punishment as the first female in the Navy Seals. There is *Volcano*, which sends lava and clichés all over Los Angeles. There is also *Face/Off*, a tricky thriller from John Woo with John Travolta and Nicolas Cage.

If you want Hollywood movies with sense, your best bets are the fittingly impressive *Contact* (Sept 26), directed by Robert Zemeckis, with Jodie Foster making contact with extra-terrestrials; and *LA Confidential* (Oct 3), a ripping yarn about LA in the Fifties from Curtis Hanson.

Where are the foreign-language movies? All but nowhere, though Chen Kaige's sumptuous drama *Tempest Moon*, with Leslie Cheung and Gong Li, surfaces on Oct 10. This follows a family as they fall apart under the influence of opium and social change in the 1910s. Then the French hit *Ma Vie en Rose* arrives (Oct 24), wrapping up the troubles of a seven-year-old boy who wants to be a girl.



Men in frock coats, and frocks: Stephen Fry plays the title role in *Wilde*, out next month; while the all-male cast of *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo* warms up for a London appearance next week



Sharks, sex and satire

Most controversial art show of the autumn? It's bound to be *Sensation* (Royal Academy, from Sept 18). Drawn from the Saatchi Collection, it presents young British artists in all their notorious feistiness. Damien Hirst's shark in formaldehyde will be a dominant presence. Other exhibitors include Gary Hume, Fiona Rae, Sam Taylor-Wood and Rachel Whiteread.

James Ensor, whose long career is surveyed at the Barbican Art Gallery (from tomorrow), was the most macabre artist of his age. This fiercely isolated Belgian painter lived until 1949, but is best remembered for his earlier seascapes, masked carnivals and apocalyptic biblical scenes, all well represented here.

The tercentenary celebrations of Hogarth, another stubborn individualist, come to a climax with the British Museum's Hogarth

VISUAL ART

Richard Cork

and *His Times* (from Sept 26). Other Hogarth shows are at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester (from Friday), the National Gallery (from Monday), the Thomas Coram Foundation, London (from Nov 5), and the V&A (from Oct 15).

Objects of Desire is the seductive title of the Hayward Gallery's big autumn show (from Oct 9). It examines the surprisingly central role played by still-life subjects in 20th-century art. Many of modernism's outstanding masters, from Matisse and Picasso to Duchamp, are included.

At the Tate, Victorian art at its most dreamlike is explored in *The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts* (from Oct 16). By a

happy coincidence, the Royal Academy's *Victorian Fairy Painting* show opens soon afterwards (from Nov 13). The major figure will be "Mad" Richard Dadd, who killed his father and spent much of his career painting hypnotic fairyland scenes in Bedlam. But the show reveals how widespread the craze for occult subjects was.

A single painting by Holbein is the centrepiece of the National Gallery's most important autumn offering (from Nov 5). His recently cleaned *Ambassadors* is familiar enough, but the show widens out to include a fascinating exploration of his working methods.

The Serpentine Gallery marks its return after redevelopment with a major retrospective devoted to Piero Manzoni (from Nov 27). Dying at the age of 30 in 1963, Manzoni nevertheless produced an influential body of work: revolutionary yet highly refined.

There's something odd about those sylphs

The iconoclastic choreographer Matthew Bourne, who rewrote *Swan Lake* for a whole new generation of dancers, is setting his new version of *Cinderella* in the Blitz. It stars Sarah Wildor, Adam Cooper and the inimitable Lynn Seymour (Piccadilly Theatre, from Sept 22).

Medieval England and France provide the setting for David Bintley's full-length *Edward II*, which receives its British premiere (Birmingham Hippodrome, Oct 9).

DANCE

Debra Crane

launching Birmingham Royal Ballet's season. The story of the tormented homosexual monarch, based on Christopher Marlowe's 1592 play, is billed as "probably the most violent, disturbing and bloody ballet ever created". English National Ballet, meanwhile, has a new *Nutcracker* courtesy of Derek Deane, who promises one or two surprises. It premieres at the Mayflower in Southampton (Nov 13) and moves to the Coliseum (Dec 8-Jan 10).

Dance Umbrella 97 (Oct 21-Nov 15, various London venues) sees the return of the Stephen Petronio Company from New York and also features the belated British debut of one of France's leading choreographers, Maguy Marin. And the Belfast Festival (Nov 14-30) scores a real coup by presenting the UK premiere of Merce Cunningham's *Ocean*, the last collaboration between Cunningham and John Cage.

National Nunn

This autumn, Trevor Nunn takes over the National, the RSC returns to the Barbican after summering in the regions, and, as if to ensure that not all prospects please, Peter Hall departs the Old Vic after a season to remember.

Nunn will himself be directing two productions: Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* with Ian McKellen as bawdy Stockman (Sept 19) and *Mutability* (Nov 20), a new play by Frank McGuinness set in Elizabethan Ireland and likely to demonstrate why not every Emerald Isle dweller has captured feelings about the English. But the major event at the National is surely Richard Eyre's valditory production of the new Tom Stoppard, a play about A.E. Housman's Oxford, called *The Invention of Love* (Oct 1).

The RSC's Stratford season continues with the twin openings this week of Anthony Sher in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Michael Sheen in *Henry V*. The latter production moves to London (Nov 6), and will be followed there by Matthew Warchus's scenic *Hamlet* (Dec 4) and Ian Judge's *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Dec 17). But an equally important date for Barbican-watchers is October 15. That's when the great Ninagawa opens *Shinobu Maru*, a Japanese play with echoes of *Oedipus* and *Phaedra*.

Down at the Vic, soon to be sold, Peter Hall presents three contemporary pieces, notably Chris Hannan's *Shining Souls* (Nov 10), which has already impressed Scots audi-

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

ences with its scathingly funny portrayal of the Glasgow street scene. Nothing in the West End can compensate for the enforced ending of as adventurous a season of rep as the commercial theatre has ever seen; but the West End is hardly barren this autumn.

Maggie Smith and Eileen Atkins are back onstage in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Haymarket, Oct 21), in some critics' view as fine a piece as the same author's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Simon McBurney of Theatre de Complicite will be directing Geraldine McEwan in Ionesco's absurdist *Chair* (Duke of York's, Nov 24) as part of a city-wide festival of French drama. But expect most fuss and hype for Ruthie Henshall as a celebrity murderess in Kander and Ebb's *Chicago* (Adelphi, Nov 18), revived last year with huge success on Broadway.

Out of town, look for Zoë Wanamaker in Sophocles's *Electra* (Chichester, Sept 18, transferring to the Donmar), Pete Postlethwaite as a touring *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic, Oct 14), Janet Suzman's production of South African Brecht, *The Good Woman of Shanghai* (West Yorkshire, Leeds, Oct 16) and the opening of Terry Hands's regime at Theatre Clwyd with his own revival of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* (Oct 2).

From Max to McCartney

Step forward, two of Britain's brightest composers. James MacMillan — radical, Catholic, ardent nationalist — is the subject of *Raising Sparks* (Sept 28-Oct 26), a festival at the South Bank in London. In addition the London Symphony Orchestra is premiering MacMillan's *Vigil Symphony* at the Barbican (Sept 28).

Thomas Adès is a cooler customer: his music is ironic and ingenious. Simon Rattle conducts the premiere of his *Asyla* with the CBSO in Birmingham (Oct 1); and a new work by Adès is also in the 30th birthday season of the London Sinfonietta (Queen Elizabeth Hall, Nov 15).

Other new music? Well, a promising chap called Paul

MUSIC

Richard Morrison

McCartney will unveil his Celtic-tinged choral epic, *Standing Stone* (Albert Hall, Oct 14). Peter Maxwell Davies also has a new choral work, *The Rising* (Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, Oct 16), marking the 250th anniversary of the 1745 Rebellion. Mathematicians will point out that Max is a little late; others may feel that his timing is spot on to catch the rising tide of Scottish devolution.

John Eliot Gardiner continues his fine *Schumann Revealed* project (Barbican, Oct

3-5). Also at the Barbican is *Visions of Albion* (Oct), celebrating the 125th anniversary of Vaughan Williams's birth. Meanwhile, the backbone of the London Philharmonic's Festival Hall series is a Prokofiev Festival (Nov 25-Dec 3).

Finally, all eyes on three new brooms. The Philharmonia has its first full season under the direction of the stern Christoph von Dohnányi (Festival Hall). The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will be hoping that the Czech maestro Petr Altrichter proves a worthy successor to his compatriot Libor Pešek. And in Glasgow the underrated Alexander Lazarev starts as principal conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

on Friday with a new *Fidelio* conducted by Carlo Rizzi, followed swiftly with Sir Charles Mackerras conducting *La clemenza di Tito* (Sept 24), and later by David Alden's neo-Eurotrash version of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Dec 11). Opera North starts on Saturday with a powerfully cast revival of Philip Prowse's brilliant *Aida*, and proceeds with the most eagerly awaited autumn production: Martinu's haunting dream opera *Julieta*, in a staging

by David Pountney and Stefanos Lazaridis (Oct 3). And Scottish Opera cautiously starts with a revival of *Norma* (Sept 16), followed by Kenny Ireland's new production of *Rigoletto* with the Macedonian baritone Boris Trajanov in the title role (Sept 30).

The Donizetti bicentenary has not been lavishly marked, but two concerts are essential: the RO's premiere (Dec 16, Festival Hall) of *Elisabetta*, whose autograph was found mouldering in Covent Garden, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment playing *Linda di Chamounix*, conducted by Mark Elder (Nov 21, Festival Hall; Nov 24, Birmingham).

ROBERT FOX AND ANNEKE THOMAS

maggie smith eileen atkins

john standing

edward albee

a delicate balance

with sian thomas

james laurenson and annette crosbie

can toms

howard harison

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What price job satisfaction?

Joan Llewelyn Owens reports on the secretaries for whom money is not the most important factor

For some secretaries money is not the primary consideration. A congenial environment matters far more. Best of all is a job which relates to their personal interests — in the arts and media, the environment, education, politics or helping the sick and underprivileged.

A number express a distinct distaste for the commercial world. Permanent Prospects is one of several recruitment agencies specialising in the non-commercial sector. Managing director Maggie Heap says: "I think the people who come to register here have some kind of moral conscience. Money is not a high priority and they want to contribute to society. A phrase that comes up a lot is, 'I would prefer to do some good than help to line shareholders' pockets'."

Do such people lose out financially? Certainly they are not paid as much as a secretary in the financial sector, but they claim to have a great deal more job satisfaction.

Do you have to go without if you work for a charity? Vicki Pulman, of the Charities Aid Foundation, says it is difficult to draw conclusions about pay. There are 180,000 registered charities, but around 20 per cent of them are responsible for raising 80 per cent of the income of the voluntary sector. Fundraising has recently become increasingly businesslike and competitive, and salaries have risen accordingly. Most of the remaining charities are tiny organisations with limited resources; they fear the introduction of a minimum wage.

"Charities are having to pay the going rate to get the right quality of people, and good secretaries are in short supply," says Vivienne Copeland, of Reward Group. A survey of the charity sector last November showed that a director's secretary averaged £15,500 (lowest £11,000, highest £24,000) and a manager's secretary £13,500 (£8,300-£22,000).

The RSPCA, one of the largest employers in Horsham, West Sussex, felt its pay rates were comparable with other local employers. Rachel Flower, personnel officer with Blue Cross, thought much the same. Both these animal charities said they had many job applicants who were animal lovers. Both allowed staff to bring

their dogs to work, an added attraction of the job. Olive Gearing, Oxford's press officer, says that people work for them "because of the righteousness of our cause, but we don't pay a pittance". Money certainly doesn't motivate Diana Bray, 27.

she answers: "Salary is not an issue for me." Ms Bray likes being with Oxford because it makes such a difference to people's lives. Another big plus is being able to work with dedicated, compassionate people, who are professional in their approach.

"Oxford's income comes from donations, so we feel a big responsibility to the donors and to the people we work with in countries around the world. I think that this makes us very conscientious."

Another field in which money is less important is the arts. Dare Campbell, chief executive of the Grosvenor Bureau, says that people will work for a pittance in an arts organisation, particularly if it is connected with the theatre. (Last week the Royal National Theatre advertised for a secretary to the casting department. Enquiries revealed that the pay would be £3,500-£14,500, and some 40-50 applications were likely.)

People don't expect to make a fortune in publishing, either. It attracts many, including gradu-

ates with keyboard skills (essential), prepared to accept a low salary in the hope of progressing to editorial assistant and perhaps eventually to commissioning editor.

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People who train as medical secretaries do so, again, because they want to help people. Gloria Shersby was a secretary in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children before becoming education secretary of the Institute of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists. "Though practice managers are paid quite well," she says, "secretaries earn considerably less in the medical field than in commerce. They do it for love. It is a very rewarding job, though you may get to the point where you can't stand the bureaucracy."

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If you feel you have the above qualities and would like to be considered please write with full CV and note of salary expectation to Tara Maloney, Personnel Manager, IMG, Axis Centre, Burlington Lane, Chiswick W4 2TH or fax 0181 233 5301.

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PA to Publishing Director
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Fluent French and shorthand or speed-writing essential.

Please apply with CV stating current salary to:
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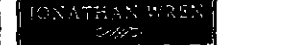
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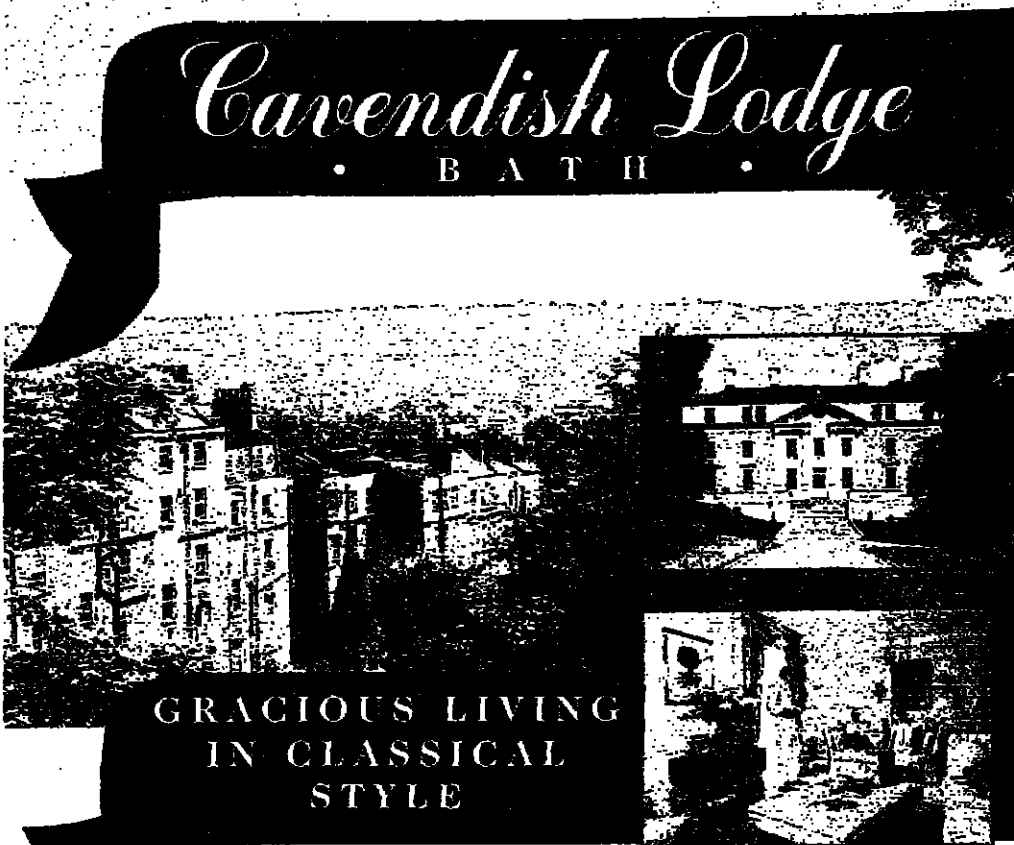
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Bird as one of the senior umpires during the 1995 season

Dickie Bird recalls how a gentle introduction to Test cricket was followed by controversy.

Soon after I retired from first-class cricket, J. J. Warr, the former Middlesex and England fast bowler, asked me if I had ever thought about becoming an umpire. I just laughed at him.

"What, me?" I said. "You've got to be joking."

However, it set me thinking and the more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea. After all, I said to myself, being an umpire was the next best thing to actually playing the game. And I would still be involved in first-class cricket, which I had missed.

Of course, people who knew me well, such as Ray Illingworth, Michael Parkinson and Geoffrey Boycott, all said I had such a nervous nature that never in a million years would I make a good umpire.

The amazing thing is that I changed completely. I lost all those nerves. I told myself that I was going to make a success of it, and that I was going to relax and enjoy it at the same time. I was going to smile, have a good laugh. As well as enjoying myself as an umpire, I was determined to earn the respect of the players. I would be willing to share a joke with them on the field, but not allow it to go too far.

In one early match Surrey were playing Hampshire at Guildford and the Hampshire captain, Richard Gilliat, was batting. A short ball from my end was lofted miles high into the air. So I ran from my position behind the stumps and followed the ball right to the boundary's edge, where I tried to catch it. I had momentarily forgotten that I was no longer a player, but an umpire. The ball just cleared the ropes and, as it did so, realising what had happened, I turned and signalled a six to the scorers. Talk about keeping up with play!

That reminds me of the time I was fielding down at third man for Leicestershire. I raced round to field the ball when I suddenly slipped. I flew straight into the pavilion railings and my head became stuck fast. I couldn't move. The ground was in uproar. The players couldn't do anything for laughing. In the end the game had to be held up until they found a joiner to get my head out.

On another occasion I was standing at a match between Yorkshire and Kent at Headingley when Richard Hutton was about to bowl to Stuart Leary, Kent's South African batsman. "Just watch out, Dickie," Leary said. "I'm going to hit his first and fifth balls over mid-wicket for six."

"Bet you won't," I answered. Richard bowled the first delivery.

When Fagg caused crisis at Edgbaston



Showing Ian Bishop how he overstepped

Test scene, saw fit to criticise my decision to signal for a wide by Chris Old. "Give the lad a chance," he yelled out.

Quick as a flash, without pausing to think what I was doing, I took off my umpire's jacket and invited Ronald out to put it on. The crowd howled, and that helped reduce the tension even more. Now I really did begin to feel at home.

I had been appointed to two Tests in that summer of 1973. The second.

'Arthur was so incensed that he refused to take up his position'

in a split tour, was between England and West Indies at Edgbaston in August, and, from an umpiring point of view, it turned out to be one of the most eventful Tests ever played in this country.

For the first time in the history of Test cricket an umpire said he was packing up and going home in the middle of a game. Arthur Fagg was so incensed about the behaviour of the West Indies captain, Rohan Kanhai, that he refused to take his position on the third morning.

What sparked it all off was an appeal for a catch behind the wicket. Early in his innings Geoff Boycott played forward to Keith

Boyce and there was a tremendous shout. They all went up, but Arthur Fagg was unimpressed. "Not out," he said.

Kanhai took the decision badly. He stamped and stormed around, and generally caused quite a scene. I could see Arthur was upset by Kanhai's reaction. He hardly spoke a word in the dressing-room at the end of the day's play, and showered and changed clearly in a state of distress. "Don't let it get to you, Arthur," I said to him. "You'll feel a lot better when you've had a good night's sleep."

It was only when I came down to breakfast the following morning and saw all the headlines that I realised just how serious the situation was. One of them screamed, "TEST UMPIRE IN 'I'LL QUIT' THREAT". When Arthur had walked away from the dressing-room to the car park the previous evening he had been surrounded by the national press, and because he was so upset he had probably said things he should not have said.

When I met Arthur back at the ground on that third day he said to me: "Dickie, lad, I'm going to take no further part in this game unless I get an apology from Rohan Kanhai for his behaviour yesterday. If he doesn't apologise, then they can get someone else."

"If they won't accept decisions there is no point carrying on. Why should I? I'm nearly 60. I don't have to live with this kind of pressure. I had to live with it for 2½ hours out there. People don't realise how bad it has become."

As I listened, it was clear that Arthur was in a very emotional state. He was one of England's leading umpires, and here was I, a mere novice at that level, trying to console him, to lift him. But there seemed so little I could do. When no apology was forthcoming Arthur said: "Right, that's it. I'm packing my bags. I'm off."

By this time all the television and

press people were trying to crowd their way into the room, eager to know what was happening. It was sheer bedlam.

I took Arthur into a corner, sat with him, and tried to persuade him to change his mind. "Look here, Arthur," I reasoned. "I do know how you must feel, but you've got to go out there."

He was adamant. "No way. Not unless I get an apology."

I was staggered. It suddenly struck me that I would have to go out there and stand at both ends. I could not believe that all this was happening to me in only my second Test.

I went to see Leslie Deakins, the secretary of Warwickshire, and Alec Bedser, the chairman of selectors, told them what the situation was, and asked for someone to stand at square leg. They decided to call on Warwickshire's coach, Alan Oakman, the former Sussex and England player, who had also been a first-class umpire.

The game got under way, with Alan at square leg, and me taking both ends.

After a short while, to Alan's relief, there was suddenly another tremendous roar, and Arthur came walking out into the middle, booed by the large West Indian contingent in the packed house, and cheered by the England supporters.

That was not the only problem during the match. We also had trouble dealing with time-wasting and intimidatory bowling. Arthur and I had a chat in the middle and decided that we were not going to stand for it any longer. We really read the riot act, telling both parties that we wanted them to play the rest of the Test match in a good spirit, and they did. It was a wonderful game of cricket after that.

When the game was over Kanhai was the first man to shake Arthur Fagg by the hand. Whether he actually apologised I don't know, but in any case, the damage had been done. Arthur was never the same man, and never really recovered. He became ill soon afterwards and never umpired another Test match. It was all very, very sad. But that trouble-torn Test did me nothing but good. Because I had stood up to them I must have earned the West Indies' respect, because shortly afterwards I received a telegram from Lord's telling me that I had been appointed to stand in the final match of the series.

Extracted from My Autobiography by Dickie Bird, published by Hodder and Stoughton on September 18 at £17.99.

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Bank on NatWest to disappoint

The race is not always to the swift — but that is the right way to bet. An old gambler's saying, and it is always a pleasure to bet on a genuine sporting certainty. A good example is the NatWest Trophy final. As every wise sporting person knows, the best way to enjoy one-day cricket is to confine your watching to the last 20 overs of the second innings. The bit that comes before merely establishes the terms on which the battle proper is fought.

Only once the last 20 overs begin do we see the struggle and the drama. The preliminaries are intriguing, in a pawn-to-king sort of way. But one-day cricket is not a sustained drama, like a Test match: it is ordinary and prosaic stuff — but with a very loud and flashy denouement.

One-day cricket lacks the soliloquies, the ghost, the mad scene and any of the myriad themes — such as sonhood, atonement, politicking, paterfamilias — but you always get the duel and the blood-letting. People complain, after the retirement of a Botham or a Cantona, that the sport in

question has become Hamlet without the prince, but one-day cricket is always Hamlet without the plot.

But a lovely bloody conclusion. With this thought in mind, the cricket season always celebrates the beginning of the end with the NatWest final. Well, it was no good watching the last 20 overs on Sunday. There were no last 20 overs.

What was worth watching, then? Er, well, the toss, I suppose. This is cricket's end-of-term shindig, its Last Night of the Proms — and it lacked Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. It always does. This final has become one of the most terrible damp squibs in sport. The match is won and lost on the toss: if you bat first, you lose.

Yes, I know about that strange and spooky aberration of last year, when Essex, after restricting Lancashire to the modest total of 186, managed to get themselves out for 57. They didn't play the last 20 overs that time, either. This was but the exception, however. Last Sunday we resumed the normal pattern of a totally

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

uncompetitive match that, in professional sport, should be a contradiction in terms.

For years, I always made a small but pleasing profit when covering the Super Bowl. This is the American football final between the winners of the National Football Conference (NFC) and the winners of the American Football Conference (AFC). I always won. This is because I always backed the team from the NFC. You

always find some romantic who believes that this year the underdog will prevail. Cheer for the underdog, by all means — but if you look to make a profit it is the overdog that you should bet on. The victory of the NFC side has become so utterly predictable that it has undermined the hold that the sport had established on the people of the United States.

Its end-of-term fireworks display has become yet another inevitable damp squib, for there is nothing quite as wet as an uncompetitive competition. And this is tough on the sport, because it has always bent over backwards to maintain the parity of competition.

Every year, the team that finishes last is given first pick of the emerging college players; and the first, the Super Bowl winners themselves, the last. The teams that win do, indeed, change: a brief period of hegemony is followed by decline. But the pre-eminence of the NFC remains in place — and every year, the perfect predictability of this utterly destroys the showpiece. Basketball — whose end-of-term spectacles are generally

memorable stuff — has taken over as America's No 1 sport.

At the Olympic Games, the total dominance of the Dream Team, the United States basketball side, swaggering from blowout to blowout, from predictable victory to predictable victory, became the most colossal bore imaginable. Even America, a place not easily disturbed by such things as crass and vulgar global dominance, felt a trifle embarrassed. Sure, the results said that America was truly great — but the matches themselves were dire. You did not need to watch to know the result; and so the sport itself lost all point.

Sport needs unpredictability: needs parity of competition. Football is the boom sport in this country right now. The floating voters, on whom the boom depends, will start to walk away if the plot gets too predictable. The Scottish league has long been a joke — some years it is so close that you hardly know who is going to come third. But the joke might start to wear a little thin if Premiership football goes the same way.

TENNIS: MOYA WARNS US OPEN FINALIST TO BEWARE CLAY-COURT EXPERT AT BOURNEMOUTH

Britons set stage for Rusedski

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THERE must be something in the air at the Samsung Open in Bournemouth. Three out of four Britons reached the second round yesterday for the loss of just one set between them. There had to be one loser among the home-grown team of five as Mark Petchey and Danny Sapsford faced each other.

The only man yet to play under the British flag is Greg Rusedski, who arrived in Bournemouth yesterday evening and will play his first match today against Alberto Martin. However, before he had even reached the practice courts, he was given a few words of warning from the top seed, Carlos Moya.

After skipping through his opening match against Oren Menevassel, from Israel, 6-4, 6-0, Moya cast his mind back to the Australian Open and the effects of losing his first grand-slam final. "Greg's a good player, but it's going to be difficult for him," Moya said. "His mind is not going to be here. It happened to me when I came back from Australia. I wasn't concentrated, it's not easy. I know Martin, he doesn't get tight or nervous and he's used to clay. My money is on him."

At least the omens are looking good, with two British wins to add to Miles Maclagan's victory on Monday. Sapsford and Petchey have known each other since their days together in the juniors and now, as best friends on the tour, their matches are hardly battles to the death. It was Petchey who drew the short straw and lost 6-4, 6-2. Then again, he expected little else after spending the past four weeks recovering from a stomach injury. "It is still only 95 per cent right, but I have to start coming back somewhere," he said. "I can't afford to spend another month doing nothing."

Sapsford will next play Jacobo Diaz, one of the flock of Spanish clay-court experts making their mark on the world rankings. Still trying to move up from No 139 in the world, Diaz made huge strides yesterday by putting out the No 4 seed, Cedric Pioline, 7-5, 6-3 in the first round. It was a desperate performance from the Wimbledon finalist as, with little sign of any interest in the outcome, he let a 5-2 lead slip in the first set and appeared to throw in the towel. Diaz's countryman, Felix Mantilla, also made his way



Sapsford drives a backhand during his defeat of Petchey at Bournemouth yesterday

into the second round with a simple 6-3, 6-3 victory over Lionel Roux, from France. He now faces Chris Wilkinson, who polished off Alistair Hunt, a qualifier from New Zealand, 6-2, 6-2. In 1995, Wilkinson was one of the first

to complain at the adoption by Great Britain of Rusedski. Yesterday, he was joining in the chorus of approval for what the inordinately good-humoured one has achieved.

"It was a great effort from Greg at the US Open," he said.

"It is great for British tennis and great for British kids to have someone to look up to with him and Tim." Now all Rusedski has to do is prove Moya wrong.

Results, page 45

RUGBY UNION

Connacht take control in European coup

Connacht..... 43

Northampton..... 13

BY KARL JOHNSTON

THIS was Connacht's finest hour at the Galway Sports Ground yesterday, the European Conference annihilation of a club bristling with some of the biggest names of rugby, most of them left on the sidelines until the situation became critical.

Leading 20-3 at half-time, Connacht underlined their superiority with tries by Ruane and Carolan to add to scores from Duignan and McEntee.

SCORERS: Connacht: Tries: Duignan (9th), McEntee (24), Carolan (42), Ruane (66). Conversions: Duignan (3), McEntee (1), Carolan (1), Ruane (1). Penalties: Duignan (4), McEntee (4), Carolan (4), Ruane (4). Connacht: W. Ruane, N. Barry (res. P. Southern, 72min), P. Duignan, M. Murphy, N. Carolan, E. Swindell (res. S. Hurley, 75), C. McQuinn, J. Maher (res. P. Ward, 75), B. McCarthy, M. Foley (res. M. Cahill, 75), M. McCormack, G. Heaslip, P. Rogers, S. McEntee, B. Gavin (res. M. Reilly, 75). NORTHAMPTON: I. Hunter (res. N. Beal, 59), C. Mox (res. G. Townsend, 59), A. Chalmers (res. J. Thompson, 59), D. Malone, M. Hynes (res. C. Allen, 75), G. Johnston (res. A. Clarke, 75), M. Stewart, J. Chandler, M. Bayfield (res. S. Foele, 45), S. Macdonald (res. Foele, 27-32), A. Pountney, S. Talpou.

Referee: G. Borroni (France).

WEED-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

LIPPER

(c) A rippling, slight ruffling of the surface of the sea. Probably from the verb to *lipper*, of water, to ripple.

MOLLAG

(a) A dog's skin blown up as a bladder, and used to float the herring-nets. As empty as a *mollag*, quite empty. As full as a *mollag*, quite drunk. Manx dialect.

MUCHULKA

(b) A written bond. From the Hindi word.

MARMENNILL

(a) A merman. Icelandic diminutive of *mar-r* the sea + *mann* a man.

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One man's bashful view of women's world

There is, I suppose, a certain logic to having *Looking Good* (BBC2) on in the evening rather than in the daytime slot which nature clearly intended. After all, many women are at work during the day. Why should they be deprived of the goodies that get us stop-at-homes through the day?

I, for instance, would never get past morning coffee without at least ten minutes of Richard Madeley pretending to ignore the models that live up the fashion items on *This Morning* (ITV). With the first week of its new season entirely taken up — most annoyingly — by the nation's grief, the programme is getting back to their usual, superficial best. Still, stilettoes ("kiss-me shoes" as Nina Myskow tactfully described them) were a start on Monday.

According to the resident fashion expert, vertiginously high heels would be worn with the new (as in "we haven't seen them for at least

two years") micro-mini. Madeley raised a bored eyebrow. Then the first model came on wearing some very high heels and a very short skirt. Suddenly, Madeley began to gabble a story about a hole in their kitchen floor left many years ago by one of Judy's stilettoes. Judy Finnegan, his co-host and wife, smiled indulgently — she has been known to hit him during under-wear items but she does like it when he makes an effort.

On Monday he made big efforts. Presumably unaware of just how short the skirts were going to be, the set designer had constructed a raised catwalk with Richard, Judy and the models. Well, you can probably work out the angles as well as Madeley could. He spent the next five minutes staring single-mindedly at ankle-strap level. "High heels give you a very sexy walk," trilled the expert, "as well as pushing your bottom out. Mmmmm," agreed Madeley,

through clenched teeth. How he suffers for his art.

As, indeed, do I. I admit it was the word "lingerie" that led me to the second instalment of *Looking Good*, but I was sure that, this being BBC2 and apparently a single-sex programme, any underwear on display would be in tussled drawers or sensible multi-packs. Damn, it was.

Lowri Turner was in Paris, apparently with the sole intent of trotting out the tired old chestnut of French women spending more money on fashion and beauty than their British counterparts. Then — with a dizzying lack of imagination — she and her unseen team set out to prove it. And you know, by taking practical Louise, who spends £130 a month on looking good, and seriously chic Ghislaine, who spent £250 a month and felt "necked" without her expensive

perfume, it turned out to be true. Funny, that.

If *Looking Good* is daytime television masquerading as prime-time television, then *The Good Factor* (Channel 4) is children's television pretending it's for grown-ups. That doesn't make it bad or stop it being fun, but it does make it simplistic and naive.

Last night, Mark Little, looking and sounding more like an Antip-

dean John Noakes than ever, rushed around the villages of Ashill in Norfolk and South Zeal in Devon trying to do something about health. The only problem was, they seemed to be quite healthy already. The children from both villages (who we know by now will be roped in early on) had much better teeth than the national average. South Zeal was chock-full of alternative healers, and Ashill had a well-organised system of volunteer drivers for those who needed to get to the nearest hospital, 20 miles away.

South Zeal ramped away with the entirely meaningless competition to see which was the healthier village, largely because the energetic, dancing pensioners of Ashill were still putting double cream in their quiches. "Well, you've got to have some treats," said one, unrepentantly. Given that the programme's other sensational discovery was that there was no

condom machine in the ladies loo of the local pub, I think she's probably right.

With *Noah's Ark* getting under way on Monday night, *All Creatures Great and Small* attempting to bring a little cheer to last Saturday and *Vets in Practice* (BBC1) on twice a week, the veterinary profession is having a good run. So too is Trude, the blonde Norwegian, both of whom are vital on whom *Vets in Practice* seems increasingly dependent.

Her competence is no longer in question, so she's moved on to humour — helped, it must be said, by the arrival of a rabbit called Useless... to be castrated. "He's going to be even more useless after that," she observed accurately. After he came round from the operation, Useless ran around with a flower-pot on his head, which I thought was a much better

joke and certainly a surreal challenge too far for Trude's scriptwriter.

Finally, we're now two hours in to *Holding On* (BBC2), far enough for some of the smug, aren't-we-clever stuff from part one to be thankfully worn off but possibly not quite far enough to attempt the low-key ending last night.

As my colleague Joe Joseph pointed out yesterday, its creator, Tony Marchant, has happily acknowledged, dates to Dickens, Wolfe and Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*. But there are others, too: echoes of *Transposing This Life*, even *EastEnders*. That's fine, as long as it eventually adds up to more than the sum of other people's parts.

But wait, I haven't yet told you how it ended. A man in a suit and tie laid flowers on the spot where a pretty girl he apparently never knew had died. No, didn't remind me of anything, either.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

perme, it turned out to be true. Funny, that.

If *Looking Good* is daytime television masquerading as prime-time television, then *The Good Factor* (Channel 4) is children's television pretending it's for grown-ups. That doesn't make it bad or stop it being fun, but it does make it simplistic and naive.

Last night, Mark Little, looking and sounding more like an Antip-

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (65949)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (98141855)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (2089652)
9.30 Style Challenge (7) (1827652)
9.55 Killy (7) (5876213)
10.55 Change That (1968039)
11.00 News (7) regional news and weather (4238107)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7) (9278126)
11.35 Room for Improvement (2849126)
12.00 News (7) regional news and weather (6871229)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (9079720)
12.35 Going for a Song (9882381)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (97774)
1.30 Regional News and weather (7) (17886107)
1.40 The Weather Show (87734720)
1.45 Neighbours Jo refuses to accept Toadie's apology (7) (17512300)
2.10 Quincey (7) (6249949)
2.30 Through the Keyhole (7240788)
3.25 Chudley (7) (7325403) 3.50 ChudleyVision (7) (8448519) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (7) (412045) 4.35 Prince of Atlantis (7) (6053584) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (9458720) 5.10 Blue Peter (7) (5427316)
5.35 Neighbours Billy gets drawn into a family argument (7) (134403)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (865)
6.30 Regional News (7) (107)
7.00 Animal People New series exploring the bond between people and animals (7) (1294)
7.30 Tomorrow's World A new "morning-after" pill for HIV; a new aircraft collision early warning device (7) (519)
8.00 Children's Hospital A spina baffle suffers a brought in a baby needs radical facial surgery; the progress of premature baby girl Toni (3362)
8.30 The National Lottery Live With the cast of *Coronation Street* and music by Roachford (7) (526881)
8.45 Points of View (7) (445584)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) regional news and weather (2381)
9.25 National Lottery Update (988768)
9.30 The X Files Mulder and Jeremiah uncover fresh evidence regarding his sister at a remote farm, while managing to stay one step ahead of the Bounty Hunter — but for how long? Sci-fi drama, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (7) (285768)
10.15 Panorama Devolution Special (7) (13478)
11.15 Lethal Charm (1991) starring Barbara Eden, Heather Locklear and Julia Fulton. A made-for-television drama about the uneasy relationship between a journalist and her new colleague. Directed by Richard Michaels (133923)
12.05am Just the Way You Are (1984). A comedy starring Michael McKelvey and Edouard Molinaro (524411)
2.20 Weather (1830140)

- 6.00am Open University: The Liberation of Algeria** (486855) 6.25 The Management of Project Orin (4941590) 6.50 World's Best Artists (5748590) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (7) (4718010) 7.30 Smurfs' Adventures (6887687) 7.55 The Really Useful Show (5819565) 8.20 Penny Croydon (593251) 8.25 Tales of Aesop (7849519) 8.35 Teletubbies (1491855) 9.00 Harry and the Hardscores (2088923) 9.25 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (3357045) 9.45 Rocky Star (8089942) 9.50 Tom and Jerry (8077107) 10.00 Teletubbies (83039)
10.30 Working Lunch (44519)
11.00 TUC Conference (4236749)
1.00pm Working Lunch Update (8324881)
1.10 The Craft Hour (8135836)
2.10 News (7) and weather (32278478)
2.15 TUC Conference (326749)
3.55 News (7) (6324584)
4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (720) 4.30 Going to the Sun (285855) 4.55 East of Eden (2048346) 5.30 Today's Day (584)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation The crew attempt diplomatic relations with a hostile nation (7) (889010)
6.45 Sliders (7) (824382)
7.30 Conjurings Shakespeare New series. Bringing Shakespeare to a contemporary audience (7) (861)
8.00 University Challenge (7) (8584)
8.30 One Foot in the Past Bob Monkhouse visits Pinewood Studios to relive the heyday of British film glamour (7) (9949)
9.00 The Nazis: A Warning from History Documentary series about how a cultured nation at the heart of Europe allowed Hitler to come to power (7) (912497)
9.50 Behind the Lines (2/4) (446565)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (282861)
10.30 Newsnight (7) (309855)
11.15 Grafters Profiles of a motorcycle courier who rejected a career in the city for the freedom of the road and a young man who risks his life daily (7) (803590)
11.45 A Little Later with Joelle Holland Archive performances by some of the solo singers to have appeared on the Later programme, including Al Green, Maxwell, Luther Vandross and Enkai Bard (632010) 12.00 Weather (6059661)
12.05am Documen (3739701)
12.30 Learning Zone: Open University: The Big Picture (14850) 1.00 The Chemistry of a Forest (11234) 1.30 Conservation v Commercialism (50701) 2.00 Summer Nights (15922) 4.00 BBC Focus: Understanding Dyslexia (25411) 5.30 So You Want to Work in Social Care? (78548)

- 6.00am GMTV** (7622671)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (2085836)
9.55 Regional News (7) (1542497)
10.00 The Time, the Place (70565)
10.30 This Morning (1834300)
12.20pm Regional News (7) (6797213)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (7) (9964578)
1.25 Shortland Street (7) (993497)
1.30 ITV Crimestoppers (3470565)
1.25 Home and Away All struggles to overcome his grief (7) (5870565)
1.50 Remote Control Cooking (7) (7751861)
2.20 Vanessa (75845942)
2.50 The Natural Health Show (8297671)
3.20 ITN News (7) (4397403)
3.25 Regional News (7) (4396774)
3.30 Tots TV (1973720) 3.40 The Parkies (7718532) 3.50 Winnie the Pooh (6309223) 4.20 Exhume Ghostbuster (4050457) 4.45 It's a Mystery (8044836)
5.10 The National Amateur Garden Show (7) (282652)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (7) (204381)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (823)
6.25 HTV Weather (626377)
6.30 The West Tonight (403)
7.00 Emmerdale Wedding bells ring out in Emmerdale (7) (2590)
7.30 Coronation Street Gary and Judy proudly show off their new baby Rita and Mavis make plans for their new life (7) (687)
8.00 Three Men and a Little Lady (1990) Sequel to the bachelor comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg as the dozing fathers. Directed by Emile Ardolino (8671)
10.00 News at Ten and Lottery Result (7) (50128)
10.30 Regional News (7) (700213)
10.40 The International Match: England v Macedonia Bob Wilson presents highlights from Wembley as Glenn Hoddle's men attempt to clinch their place in next summer's finals (544774)
11.40 Swift Justice (700720)
12.00am Collins and Mason's Movie Club (3147527)
1.10 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (8604868)
1.35 The Take (1989) Thriller with Ray Sharkey, Larry Manetti and Lisa Hartman. Directed by Leon Achaso (679121)
3.10 Jones and Judy (4518140)
3.30 P1: Italian Grand Prix (7) (2442695)
4.25 TV Sport Classics (81364940)
4.35 The Time, the Place (7) (31766324)
5.00 Coronation Street (7) (45625)
5.30 ITN Morning News (7) (5072)

- As HTV West except:**
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (993497)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (282652)
6.25-7.00 Central News (419403)
11.40 Film: McCabe and Mrs Miller (44861584)
1.55am In Focus (9227275)
2.40 Mysterious Woman (1953091)
3.10 The Good Sex Guide (9358782)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '97 (1505558)
5.20 Asian Eye (1442966)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6797213)
12.55 Home and Away (4618010)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (9189368)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (282652)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (67958)
11.40 Number (700720)
MERIDIAN
As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (282652)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (523)
6.30-7.00 The Village (403)
11.40 Highlander (700720)
5.00am Freescreen (45825)
ANGLO
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglo Air Watch (5776720)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (993497)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (282652)
6.25 Anglo Weather (276836)
6.25-7.00 Anglo News (419403)
11.40 The Making of Event Horizon (291132)
12.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (3746091)
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (14497)
9.00 Something So Right (33403)
9.30 Film: As You Are (2061107)
10.50 Exposed (1111478)
11.00 Food File (5855)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (5584)
12.00 Sesame Street (57038)
12.30pm Baby Baby (77381)
1.00 Slot Meltrix (8315931)
1.15 Tic Tac (8315483)
1.30 Laurie Lee's Gloucestershire (7652)
2.00 Racing from Gloucester (7132)
4.00 Bewitched (316)
4.30 Stones of the Raj (300)
5.00 S Pump (535774)
5.15 Field (4460565)
5.30 Countdown (652)
6.00 Newyddion (679107)
6.05 Heno (551364)
6.35 Holli Benanas (448749)
7.00 Pobl y Cwm (178855)
7.25 Fflemlo (434652)
8.00 Ma Ifan (3652)
8.30 Newyddion (677039)
9.20 Equinox: Black Holes (908774)
10.20 Brookside (602294)
10.55 Babylon 5 (226403)
11.50 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (286887)
12.00am Under the Moon (4428968)
4.35 Board Stupid (6404804)
5.05 Screaming Reels (4769169)

- 5.55am Sesame Street** (92229) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (14497) 9.00 Something So Right (33403)
9.30 As You Are (1951, b/w) A comedy starring Monty Woolley, Thelma Ritter, Albert Dekker and Marilyn Monroe. Directed by Harmon Jones (2061107)
10.50 Exposed (1111478) 11.00 Food File (7) (5855)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Tuscan bean soup; spinach tarts with red pesto; fruit platters with mint gratin (6584)
12.00 Sesame Street (57038) 12.30pm Baby Baby (77381) 1.00 Light Lunch (70836)
2.00 Racing from Doncaster Brough Scott introduces the 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races (7132)
4.00 Bewitched (7) (316)
4.30 Countdown (7) (6047923)
4.55 Ridd Lake (7) (4643774)
5.30 Pet Rescue (7) (652)
6.00 The Cosby Show Theo is worried about Vanessa's reputation when she has a date with Lyle (7) (565)
6.30 Roseanne Dan's father (Ned Beatty) arrives and the sparks start to fly (7) (395)
7.00 Channel 4 News (7) Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (908774)
7.50 Yes Yes with Jonathan Watson and Alastair McGowan (886584)
8.00 Brookside Carmel believes that Sinbad has it in for her son and Mick wants to spend more time with his family (7) (3652)
8.30 Out of Africa A wildlife documentary filmed over 12 hours at a small, stony waterhole in the Etosha National Park, Namibia. Narrated by Sean Barrett (7) (5687)
9.00 The Amy Fisher Story (1992). A fact-based, made-for-television drama starring Drew Barrymore as a rebellious teenager from a home where money means more than love. She has an affair with a mechanic and asks him to leave his wife. He refuses. Directed by Andy Tennant (7) (33208872)
10.45 Space Cadets Sci-fi quiz hosted by Greg Proops with guests including Claudia Christian from *Babylon 5* and Robert Urich from *Red Dawn* (7) (756229)
11.20 Babylon 5 Sci-fi adventures. A corrupt reporter turns up and presents a picture of the space station that suggests it is run by madmen (7) (192652)
12.15am Yes Yes (7) (315833)
12.20 Under the Moon The Moon magazine presented by Darryl Kelly (4428968)
4.35 Board Stupid Snowboarding action (6404804)
5.05 Screaming Reels Angling with Nick Fisher (4769169)
5.35 Film and Video Showcase (7879666)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are: picture: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
6.00am 5 News Early (7431768)
7.30 Wishbone (5695749)
8.00 Havalakoo (3615251)
8.30 WideWorld (4085792)
9.00 Espresso (7973213)
10.00 Exclusive (7) (6154768)
10.30 Land of the Lion (5611836)
11.00 Leesa (7) (1564774)
11.50 Give 5 (7) (6996590)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (690326)
12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (900768)
1.00 5 News Update (8523050)
1.05 Sunset Beach (7) (776942)
2.00 P's Company (8810403)
3.30 Brenda Starr (890519)
5.30 Move on Up presented by Richard Morton (7) (939945)
8.00 100 Per Cent Trivia quiz (939658)



Tina Lindini as Susie (6.30pm)

- 6.30 Family Affairs** Susie tries to cheer up Holly (7) (6207010)
7.00 Exclusive with Julia Bradbury (828381)
7.30 Pole Stars Arctic Summer Birds have only two months to find a nesting place and raise their families (7) (924294)
7.55 Give 5 The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has 85,000 members who make polluted and derelict sites beautiful (674942)
8.00 Instant Gardens William Van Hage transforms a garden in Norwich with railway sleepers, mosaic tiles, plants and flowers (837822)
8.30 5 News (7) (8284836)
9.00 Broken Promises Tackling Emily Back (1983) starring Cheryl Ladd and Robert Desiderio. A fact-based drama about a wealthy couple whose young child has recently died, who decide to adopt another via a private agency, their happiness with their new daughter is marred by the arrival of the girl's natural parents, demanding further payment. Directed by Donald Wray (9674459)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (9908336)
11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7734652)
12.25am Live and Dangerous Sports news (13994362)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco A priceless stamp is stolen (7) (6729614)
5.30 100 Per Cent (7821850)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
SKY 1
 8.00am Morning Glory (120497) 9.00 Regis and Kaitie Live (8550) 10.00 Another World (8578) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (3112) 12.00 The Corbin Wright Show (19852) 1.00pm Coronation Street (72300) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (24003) 3.00 Jenny Jones (34126) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (10615) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5030) 6.00 Real TV (4229) 6.30 Married... with Children (5381) 7.00 The Simpsons (9178) 7.30 M*A*S*H (1560) 8.00 Seventh Heaven (8213) 9.00 Pacific Palisades (53749) 10.00 L.A.P.D. (76132) 10.30 Rads in Europe (8082) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5647) 12.00 Live Show with David Letterman (46633) 1.00am Hi Mix Long Play (216394)
SKY NEWS
 Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
SKY MOVIES
 6.00am The Nutcracker (1978) (84478) 8.00 September 1989 (8523) 8.30 The Long Ride (1984) (23523) 9.00 The Long Ride (1984) (23523) 9.30 September 1989 (8523) 10.00 September 1989 (8523) 10.30 September 1989 (8523) 11.00 September 1989 (8523) 11.30 September 1989 (8523) 12.00 September 1989 (8523) 12.30 September 1989 (8523) 1.00am September 1989 (8523) 1.30am September 1989 (8523) 2.00am September 1989 (8523) 2.30am September 1989 (8523) 3.00am September 1989 (8523)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
 6.00am Ramona (1986) (85720) 8.00 Runaway Train (1986) (13234) 10.00 The Sky's No Limit (1986) (1032) 11.00 New York Drive (1986) (22275) 1.00 The Detective (1986) (70877) 2.45 The Seventh Sign (1986) (4568817)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
 4.00pm You Can't Take It With You (1938) (911861) 6.00 The Gelfin Boy (1968) (11070) 8.00 James the Cockerel (1987) (81010) 10.00 The Dead Pool (1988) (890707) 11.30 Midnight Cowboy (1969) (25455) 1.00am The L-shaped Room (1989) (779727) 3.30 Wake Up Screaming (1941) (6745441)
TNT
 8.00pm High School (1986) (3716781) 11.00 The Philadelphia Story (1940) (8045687) 1.00am The Philadelphia Story (8045687) 1.30am The Philadelphia Story (8045687) 2.00am The Philadelphia Story (8045687) 2.30am The Philadelphia Story (8045687) 3.00am The Philadelphia Story (8045687)
SKY SPORTS 1
 7.00am Sports Centre (65523) 7.30 Wrestling (17132) 8.30 Sports Centre (58135) 9.00 Racing News (85555) 9.30 Athletics On Sky (20585) 10.00 Footballer's Footfall (59342) 11.00 Sports Centre (80478) 12.00 Aerobics On Sky (85229) 12.30pm Sports Unleashed (1987) 1.30 Footballer's Footfall (59342) 2.30am Sports Centre (80478) 3.00am Sports Centre (80478) 4.00am Sports Centre (80478) 5.00am Sports Centre (80478) 6.00am Sports Centre (80478) 7.00am Sports Centre (80478) 8.00am Sports Centre (80478) 9.00am Sports Centre (80478) 10.00am Sports Centre (80478) 11.00am Sports Centre (80478) 12.00am Sports Centre (80478) 1.00am Sports Centre (80478) 2.00am Sports Centre (80478) 3.00am Sports Centre (80478)
SKY SPORTS 2
 7.00am Aerobics On Sky (85229) 7.30 Sports Centre (65523) 8.00am Sports Centre (80478) 8.30am Sports Centre (80478) 9.00am Sports Centre (80478) 10.00am Sports Centre (80478) 11.00am Sports Centre (80478) 12.00am Sports Centre (80478) 1.00am Sports Centre (80478) 2.00am Sports Centre (80478) 3.00am Sports Centre (80478)
SKY SPORTS 3
 12.00 Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (25191318) 1.00pm Fish TV (2604636) 2.00pm Sky Sports (8045501) 3.30 New York Drive (1986) (22275) 4.00 The Detective (1986) (70877) 5.30 The Seventh Sign (1986) (4568817)

- DISNEY CHANNEL**
 6.00am Dumbo (1957) 6.30 Lamb Chop (5987) 7.00 Chip 'n' Dale (80455) 7.30 Quack Pack (90635) 8.00 DuckTales (28294) 8.30 Bonkers (25565) 9.00 Gummi Bears (25045) 9.30 Groundling Marsh (85107) 10.00 The Bear (85107) 10.30 The Bear (85107) 11.00 The Bear (85107) 11.30 The Bear (85107) 12.00 The Bear (85107) 12.30 The Bear (85107) 1.00am The Bear (85107) 1.30am The Bear (85107) 2.00am The Bear (85107) 2.30am The Bear (85107) 3.00am The Bear (85107)
FOX KIDS NETWORK
 6.00am The Fox Kids (64555) 6.30 Billy the Cat (264500) 7.00 The Fox Kids (64555) 7.30 Power Rangers: Zeo (434128) 8.00 Beetlejuice (88567) 8.30 Masked Rider (88567) 9.00 Masked Rider (88567) 9.30 Masked Rider (88567) 10.00 Masked Rider (88567) 10.30 Masked Rider (88567) 11.00 Masked Rider (88567) 11.30 Masked Rider (88567) 12.00 Masked Rider (88567) 12.30 Masked Rider (88567) 1.00am Masked Rider (88567) 1.30am Masked Rider (88567) 2.00am Masked Rider (88567) 2.30am Masked Rider (88567) 3.00am Masked Rider (88567)

- CARTOON NETWORK**
 All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.
NICKELODEON
 6.00am Kite Tension (23769) 6.30 Arnold (23769) 7.00 Arnold (23769) 7.30 Arnold (23769) 8.00 Arnold (23769) 8.30 Arnold (23769) 9.00 Arnold (23769) 9.30 Arnold (23769) 10.00 Arnold (23769) 10.30 Arnold (23769) 11.00 Arnold (23769) 11.30 Arnold (23769) 12.00 Arnold (23769) 12.30 Arnold (23769) 1.00am Arnold (23769) 1.30am Arnold (23769) 2.00am Arnold (23769) 2.30am Arnold (23769) 3.00am Arnold (23769)
HOME & LEISURE
 6.00am Simply Painting (830132) 8.30 Garden Show (457381) 10.00 Garden Club (194655) 10.30am Room Service (85535) 11.00am Room Service (85535) 11.30am Room Service (85535) 12.00am Room Service (85535) 1.00am Room Service (85535) 1.30am Room Service (85535) 2.00am Room Service (85535) 2.30am Room Service (85535) 3.00am Room Service (8553



CRICKET 43

MacLaurin backs two-division county championship

ONE high-profile England career was put on probationary hold yesterday and another was almost certainly terminated. A third, however, was belatedly revived as Angus Fraser, the most dependable seam bowler of his generation, was named in the 16-strong party to tour the West Indies in the new year.

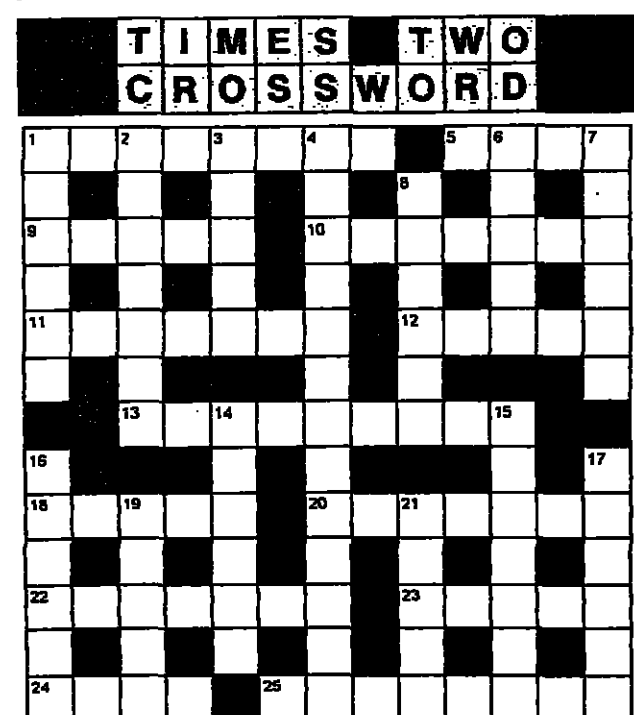
Fraser's recall indicates concern over both the inexperience of the England seam bowlers and their profligacy by comparison with their Ashes opponents this summer. "One thing we have learnt this summer is the need for accurate seam bowling," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, who also confirmed that Fraser's expertise would be used to assist the younger bowlers, said.

It is hardly a progressive selection for Fraser, now having his benefit year at Middlesex, is 32 and it will be two years since his last Test when the tour begins in January. But within the framework of England's chosen attack, in which the three principal fast bowlers have played only 40 Tests between them, it makes perfect sense.

Equally sensible, and possibly overdue, is the decision to do without Devon Malcolm, three years older than Fraser and much less reliable. And there can be no quibbles over the omission, from all the winter touring teams, of Dominic Cork: the words of Graveney elucidated just how much the meteor of 1995 has to do before being welcomed back.

Cork, Graveney said, "has been through a difficult period. Derbyshire has not been a happy place to play cricket this year and we don't see him as a viable selection at this stage. When Cork is fit, physically and temperamentally, he can once again be an asset to the England side." That is an opinion shared by Derbyshire, who last night named him as their new captain.

I understand that Graham Gooch visited Cork on behalf of the selectors last week and that discussions about the shortcomings of his recent past, and his plans for the future, were full and frank.



Graveney is deep in thought after the announcement of the England squads yesterday

Graveney made a courtesy call to him yesterday, before the teams were announced, and made another to Malcolm, whose Test match days are now surely over.

Graveney, however, did lose one debate over the selection table. Steve James, who heads the national batting averages by a country mile, was apparently the choice of the chairman as the third opening

batman, but his colleagues preferred the claims of Mark Butcher, who played in five Tests this season.

While James has to be content with the vice-captaincy of the A team, which will be led by Nick Knight, Butcher's immediate role will be dictated, as is so much else in the England side, by the next twist in Alec Stewart's mercurial career.

TOUR PARTIES

ENGLAND (to West Indies) M A Atherton (captain), N Hussain (vice-captain), M A Butcher (Surrey), A R Coadwell (Barnes), A P Cowan (Essex), J P Crawley (Lancashire), P D R Croft (Gloucestershire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), D Gough (Yorkshire), D W Headley (Kent), P J Hollis (Surrey), M R Rampersad (Middlesex), R C Russell (Gloucestershire), A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Surrey), P C B Turner (Middlesex), Manager: R Bennett, Coach: D Lloyd

ENGLAND (to Kenya and Sri Lanka) Jan-Mar 1998: Knight (captain), Esmen, D Hollis, D A Cooker (Gloucestershire), D C Nash (Middlesex), G P M Hutchinson (Yorkshire), S P James (Gloucestershire), D L Moody (Gloucestershire), D J Salter (Northamptonshire), O A Shan (Middlesex), E W Storer (Northamptonshire), Manager: G A Gooch, Coach: M W Gattling

There is a good chance, confirmed by Graveney, that Stewart and his captain, Michael Atherton, will be reunited as openers, freeing the wicketkeeping duties for Jack Russell. Four winters ago, in the Caribbean, Atherton and Stewart went in first and made almost 1,000 runs between them in five Tests. Such experience could be critical for what remains an intimidating tour, so it is significant that nine of the party are making their second trip to the West Indies and three their third.

The spare opener was one of the contentious areas, the others being the place claimed by Fraser ahead of Peter Martin

and the final seam-bowling position. Against opposition from Paul Hitchison, of Yorkshire, and more than one bowling all-rounder, this went to Ashley Cowan, recognition for an admirable season with Essex more than for his outstanding bowling in the NatWest Trophy final.

Cowan, at 22, is comfortably the youngest member of a party with an average age of 28. This contrasts tellingly with the selection of the A team to tour Kenya and Sri Lanka. Of the 16 named, no fewer than eight are teenagers, all part of the England Under-19 squad this summer and representative of the desire to establish a conveyor belt of young talent into the senior sides.

Jonathan Powell, the Essex off-spinner, who will join the squad after the youth World Cup in South Africa, has played only one first-class match, while Chris Read has played none at all. However, Read, reserve wicketkeeper at Gloucestershire, is a coveted young cricketer and an enlightened selection.

There were no particular surprises in the 14-man party for the one-day competition in Sharjah during December. Limited-overs specialists, such as the Browns, Alistair and Dougie, Ashley Giles and even the half-forgotten Graeme Hick are included, along with only six of the West Indies selection. Whether any of these players will fly to the Caribbean for the five one-day internationals that end the tour has yet to be finalised.

As expected, Adam Hobbins will captain the side in Sharjah, but speculation that this makes him the natural inheritor of Atherton's job has been confused by the appointment of Nasser Hussain as vice-captain in the West Indies. Plainly, no preferred successor has emerged and the selectors would be delighted if no change was necessary in the foreseeable future.

Essex made to pay, page 43

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

National teams aspire to roles of honour in Caribbean and important World Cup qualifying tie

England face great expectations

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WILL start with a song 15 minutes before the kick-off, a recording of Elton John's new version of *Candle in the Wind*, for which the crowd will be required to stand. Then, there will be a minute's silence in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, that will test the resolve of the players as much as the impact of any tackle or the pursuit of any wayward ball.

When these things have passed and release has come with the roar of the crowd, a charged audience that will fill Wembley to its capacity tonight, England's footballers will try to focus their energies on a World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova that once would have been routine but is now far from that.

Once goals from Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, both of whom are missing tonight, had disposed of Poland in Katowice in May, this match against the whipping boys of group two, the team that has not earned a point in its five matches so far, should have been a happy formality, a stop at a staging post on the journey towards Rome and the decisive meeting with Italy next month.

That all changed with the tragedy that unfolded in Paris 11 days ago and when Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, gave his final pre-match briefing yesterday, he was candid about the fact that the game might turn on how his team reacts in the midst of the maelstrom of sadness that will swirl around the ground before the start.

Hoddle forsook the gloom of the oak-panelled room where his press conferences are usually held and took to the lawns of Bisham Abbey instead, gathering an impromptu circle before him on the banks of the Thames and talking as working barges and pleasure boats drifted by and ramblers across the water waved their greetings.

It was as if he wanted to place himself at the heart of a picture of serenity and calm, to bathe in sunlight again, not remain in darkness. He said once more that he hoped his team could lift the nation from



Hoddle takes a backward glance during his press briefing at Bisham Abbey yesterday

be a case of them having to lift us or us having to lift them. But as soon as the whistle goes, we have got a job to do and the crowd have got a job, as well. Let's hope they take the roof off with their cheering and make that a show of respect, too."

It is possible, of course, that the emotion of the evening will serve to inspire England to a higher level of performance than they would otherwise have achieved and, as long as the sombre preamble to the match does not affect them too drastically, they should have little trouble in easing past Moldova. Victory would take them to the top of the group if Italy fail to win in Georgia.

Hoddle even said he was considering leaving David Beckham, one of four players who have a yellow card to their names already, out of the starting line-up to ensure that he did not pick up a second caution that would rule him out of the match in Rome on October 11.

After he had spoken about Beckham's need to control his temper, Hoddle hinted that the Manchester United midfielder would, after all, be picked because his priority was to choose a team that would ensure victory over Moldova. Without that, the importance of the Italy game fades.

"The signs of a disciplinary problem are there with David," Hoddle said, "and we need to stamp down on that pretty early. We are not talking about any lack of talent. It is just his character and his temperament. He just gets carried away with things he does not need to get carried away with."

"I do not think it would affect him if I left him out but in all this planning ahead we need to remember the main point is to win this game. I don't like having to have an eye on a game that is in the future, but there will be a lot of other coaches in the same position."

The probability is that Beckham will start the match and be withdrawn if and when England establish their superiority in goals. It is possible, though, that Hoddle will omit Graeme Le Saux, another of the quartet with a caution, and play Phil Neville at left wing-back instead. With Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand likely to play in attack, the real selection dilemma comes in the composition of the midfield.

Hoddle's inclination to launch an all-out attack against a Moldova side that is defensively weak in the air, could lead to the inclusion of Stuart Ripley wide on the

right, with Beckham moved into the centre with Paul Gascoigne and Paul Scholes. If Beckham plays wide, Robert Lee may start in the centre.

"This is a tougher game than some people have suggested," Hoddle said. "They have got some good individuals. It is a no-lose situation for them. It is only us who have got something to lose but, in an ideal world, if we could beat them more than Italy beat them and if we could get an early goal to lift the crowd, that would be the ideal scenario."

Ireland's task, page 45

- ACROSS**
- Measure of air moisture (5)
 - Long, heroic poem (4)
 - Darling girl (Peter Pan) (5)
 - Singing to backing tape (pub) (7)
 - Distinguished (7)
 - Book of maps (5)
 - Unlike (9)
 - Projecting roof edge (5)
 - Milan opera house (2,5)
 - Speak briefly of (7)
 - Experienced, skilful (5)
 - Bonds: neckwear (4)
 - Improvident (8)
- DOWN**
- Nautical cable (6)
 - People as a whole (7)
 - Sir Arthur Conan — (5)
 - Commit oneself (to risk) (4,3,6)
 - Go stealthily (5)
 - A food: very 13 from chalk (6)
 - Suave (6)
 - Relic (of long-ago animal) (6)
 - Acrobat's swinging bar (7)
 - Allow: entry document (6)
 - Aniseed aperitif (6)
 - Meeting-place (5)
 - Slap: fishing boat (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1194

ACROSS: 1 Symbolic 5 Whet 8 Artifice 9 Fray 11 Perth 12 Muezzin 13 Trophy 15 Corner 18 Devious 19 Ducks 21 Noon 22 Pugilist 23 Rusk 24 Road rage

DOWN: 1 Stay put 2 Meter 3 Off the hook 4 Income 6 Horizon 7 Try/on 10 Second wind 14 Obvious 16 Rosette 17 Pseudo 18 Donor 20 China

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1190

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Label 4 Wedlock 8 Poignancy 9 Sin 10 Zeal 11 Doorstep 13 Huddle 14 Jargon 17 Squiggle 19 Fuss 22 Asp 23 Announcer 24 Erratic 25 Peeve

DOWN: 1 La Paz 2 Brigand 3 Lynx 4 Wanton 5 Daybreak 6 Onset 7 Kingpin 12 Flagrant 13 Hostage 15 Gouache 16 Clinic 18 Upper 20 Serve 21 Sump

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is W Dubell, Woolton Bassett, Wiltshire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is I P Jones, Anglesey. All flights subject to availability.

Illness forces Howard to withdraw

BARCLAY HOWARD, Britain's best amateur golfer, has already fought alcoholism. Now he has discovered he has leukaemia (John Hopkins writes).

Howard, 44, should have been at Burnham and Berrow yesterday with his Scotland team-mates as they gathered for the home internationals, which start today. Instead, the man who was the leading amateur in the Open in July and has since played in the Walker Cup, was in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he underwent a biopsy. He will start a course of chemotherapy later this week.

He always has a crack for any situation and this was one reason why Howard is such a popular person. "He is a great player, so vibrant and always cheerful, whether on or off the course," Gary Wolstenholme, of England, who competed with Howard in the recent Walker Cup, said. "Everyone is devastated by this news."

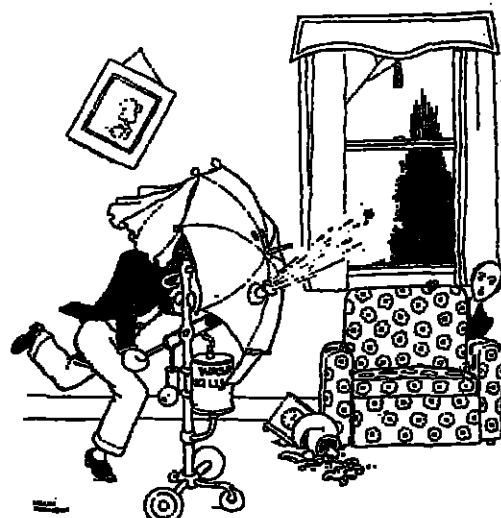
Howard first represented Scotland in 1979 but made his name more recently. He was a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that defeated the United States at Royal

Porthcawl two years ago and was in the four-man Eisenhower Trophy team in the Philippines last autumn.

In the Walker Cup at Quaker Ridge, New York, last month, Howard played poorly. He complained of continually being tired. At the time this was put down to the extreme heat. Subsequent blood tests led to the diagnosis of leukaemia.

"Our thoughts are entirely with him and his family," Colin Wood, the Scotland captain, said. "It is clear from the way the news was received here that Barclay is a man greatly respected."

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